



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • JULY 26, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 36 • LATE CITY EDITION



Rajasthan Cabinet reshuffle put off
Jaipur: AICC general secretary Ajay Maken on Sunday said that there is no conflict among party leaders in Rajasthan on the planned cabinet reshuffle and they have left the decision on the central leadership. Maken, along with AICC general secretary K C Venugopal, met ministers, MLAs and office-bearers in Jaipur. The duo could not convince Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot for a power sharing arrangement with the former Sachin Pilot faction | **PIO**



Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Under the able Guidance and Support of Capable Administrator Sri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister, The Government of Karnataka, lead by the Proactive and Dynamic Leader Sri B.S. Yediyurappa, Hon'ble Chief Minister, has over the past two years strived for the progress of the State and welfare of the people. Even in the distressing times of severe floods and COVID-19 pandemic it has not neglected the development activities and has made significant progress across all sectors by managing the economy effectively.

Model State in COVID Control and Health Sector

- Upgradation of facilities in Government Hospitals for treatment of COVID infected and appointment of 2150 doctors/personnel.
- Task Force at Village level for COVID Control.
- Establishment of COVID Testing lab at District Hospitals, increase in Oxygen manufacturing capacity and COVID Testing.
- Total relief package of Rs. 7422 crore for 1st & 2nd wave of COVID pandemic.
- Rs. 1 lakh for BPL family of who have lost a family member due to COVID.
- SSLC exams were conducted successfully during the critical time of COVID-19 & became a role model in the nation.
- Till date 2.50 crore doses of COVID Vaccine has been administered free in the State.
- Upgradation of Government Hospitals in collaboration with private organisations and establishment of new hospitals.
- Cashless treatment to over 10 lakh people under Arogya Karnataka Scheme.
- New Institutes of Medical Sciences in Chikmagalur, Chikballapura, Haveri and Yadagiri Districts.

Assistance to Augment Agriculture

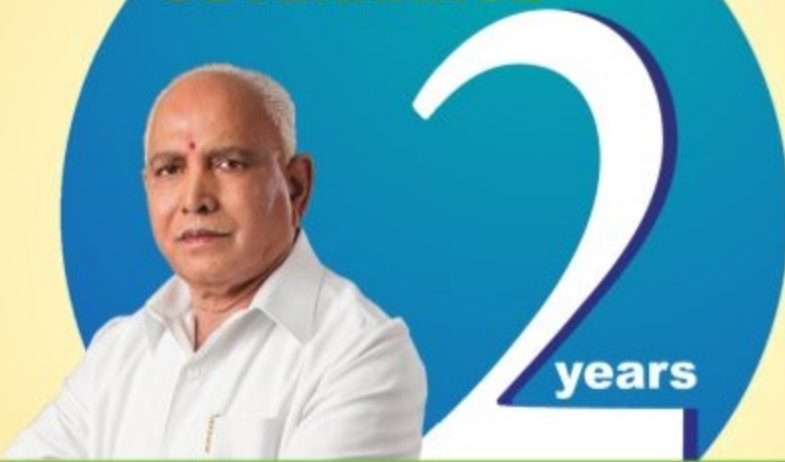
- Several projects to increase agricultural income.
- Freedom to farmers to market their produce under "My Crop, My Right, My Price" through Amendment to Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) Act 1966.
- Priority construction of Ports in the State and steps to distribute Diesel at duty free rate at delivery point to mechanized fishing boats.

Impetus to Economic Empowerment

- Creation of an investor friendly environment for enriched Karnataka.
- Karnataka stands First in attracting investments in 2020. Rs. 1.62 lakh crore investment proposals for industries were cleared.
- Implementation of "New Industrial Policy 2020-25".
- For the second consecutive time ranked as the best implementing State in Startup Ranking in the country.
- Karnataka stands first in Innovation Index 2019 and 2020 released by NITI Ayog of Central Government.



PRO - PEOPLE GOVERNANCE



Era of Progress ♦ Amidst Challenges

Sri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka



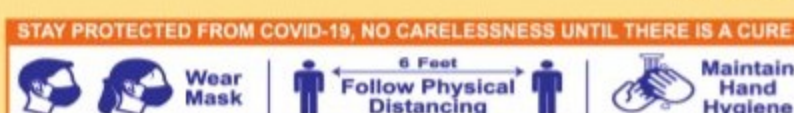
Comprehensive development of Karnataka

- Revolutionising Air Travel in the State – Services commenced in Kalaburagi and Bidar Airports. Work under progress for Shivamogga and Vijayapura Airports.
- Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project and Namma Metro Phase-2A launched.
- "Bengaluru Mission-2022" for comprehensive development of Bengaluru launched.
- Bengaluru stands No. 1 in Most Liveable Cities of India.
- Karnataka occupies 6th rank in implementation of Smart City project in Bengaluru and other cities.
- Commencement of 'Anubhava Mantapa' construction in Basavakalyana of Bidar District at a cost of Rs. 500 crore.
- Steps for comprehensive development of Birth Places of Sri Shivakumara Swamiji and Sri Balagangadharanatha Swamiji.
- 108 feet tall statue of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda and Theme Park at the premises of Kempegowda International Airport is in construction stage.
- Establishment of Vokkaliga, Veerashaiva Lingayat, Kanataka kadugolla, Maratha development Corporations for all round development of Backward Classes.
- National Jal jeevan Mission scheme of the Central Government to provide working tap water connections to 25.17 lakh households in the State.
- Along with Rs. 6,000/- aid under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Scheme beneficiaries to receive a total Rs. 10,000/- with additional Rs. 4,000/- from the State Government. For the years 2019, 20 & 21 total Rs. 2849.06 crore from the State and Rs. 7103 crore from the Center disbursed.
- 2.2 lakh houses completed by RGHL. In the next 2 years 4 lakh houses in rural areas and 1lakh in urban areas to be built at a cost of Rs. 8000 crore.
- Land acquisition process in progress for Shivamogga-Shikaripura-Ranebennur new railway line.
- Track Doubling of two sections (Byappanahalli-Hosur and Yeshwanthapura-Channasandra) from K-Ride launched.
- Action for appointment to 16,397 various posts in the Police Dept. in the last two years.
- Police Gruha 2020 completed. Police Gruha 2025 launched – construction of ten thousand houses at a cost of Rs. 2,000 crore.
- Priority to modernisation of police system, addition of 625 vehicles to emergency response 112 scheme.

Government's 2 Years of Remarkable Service



As enshrined in our Constitution, "to protect & improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures" is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.



karnataka information
Dept. of Information and Public Relations



HOME DEPARTMENT



KARNATAKA STATE POLICE



Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Challenging Years of Care Compassion and Courage 5 BIG ACHIEVEMENTS

- Forensic Science Lab • Recruitment
- Crime Control • Record Rs. 50 Crore Seizure and Destruction of Drugs • Police Reforms (Infra, Health, Education, Pay Scale)

Under the visionary guidance of
Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah
and the able leadership of
Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yediyurappa



Shri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Striving to Strengthen



Forensic Science Laboratory



CEN Police Station



TECH DRIVEN RECRUITMENT

- 1712 PSI, 183 Scientific Officers & Technical staff, 13785 Police Constables, 250 Followers appointed
- Digilocker software and e-Sindutva Certificate have been introduced for the first time to verify genuineness of certificates and also quick verification of genuineness / validity of caste certificate of the candidates

ROBUST INFRASTRUCTURE

- Construction of new building in the next five years at the cost of Rs. 200.00 Crore to 100 Police Stations which do not have own building
- An amount of Rs. 844.70 lakhs has been released to construct Central Command Centre at 1st Battalion KSRP, Bengaluru
- Construction of DPO Buildings at Kodagu and Haveri dist. at the cost 9.90 Crore each. The amount of Rs. 2.50 Crore has already been released to both the districts
- 5 Women Police Stations have been upgraded as One Staff Service Centres at the cost of 328.00 lakhs at 5 major cities (Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Mysuru, Hubli-Dharwad and Belagavi city)
- Police Public Schools at an estimated cost of Rs. 42.00 Crore in Mysore and Rs. 15.00 Crore in Davanagere
- Administrative Block for IRB Vijayapura at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.62 Crore
- Residential & Non Residential Building at an estimated cost Rs. 5.11 Crore for IRB Vijayapura and Rs. 5.30 Crore for IRB Munirabad
- New 12th Battalion Residential & Non Residential Buildings at Koratagere, Tumkur at an estimated cost of Rs. 33.45 Crore

- New Commissioner of Police Office at Mysore at an estimated cost of Rs. 20.76 Crore
- MT Shed for 2nd Btn KSRP at Machhe, Belagavi at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.00 Crore
- 10 Police Stations, 1 DSP Office, 1 CPI Office & 1 Out Post at an estimated cost of Rs. 16.97 Crore
- 94 Rest Room & Toilets for Women in existing Police Offices at an estimated cost of Rs.1.88 Crore
- Rs. 95.04 Crore has been released during the last two years for repairs of residential/ non residential buildings
- Construction of new FSL building at Koramangala at the cost of Rs. 30.16 Crore
- Pure drinking water facility to 156 police colonies across 16 districts at the cost of Rs.13.96 Crore under progress
- Rs. 43.54 Crore has been released for Armoury and Dog Kennels at DARs
- Saving/accrued interest amount of Rs. 4.68 Crore approved to construct Dharwad DAR, Dog Kennel (Uttara Kannada) and M.T. Shed at DAR Bellary buildings

MODERNISATION

- During the last two years an amount of Rs. 14.23 Crore from Union Government and 13.39 Crore from State Government has been released for procuring weapons, vehicles and scientific equipments etc.
- 751 two wheelers have been handed over to the police department under Nirbhaya Scheme
- 125 vehicles have been provided by central Home Minister to Emergency Response Support System-112

NEW SANCTIONS

- 8 CEN Police Stations sanctioned at COP, Bengaluru City Commissionerate
- Creation of Hosakote Traffic Police Station
- Creation of Srirangapatna Traffic Police Station, Mandya District
- Creation of Govindapura Police Station, K.G. Halli Sub-Division and White Field Traffic Sub-Division in Bengaluru city
- 139 PSI Stations have been gradually upgraded to PI Stations and 4 new Police Circles have been created
- 206 Scene of Crime Officers (SOCO) posts have been created for FSL by surrendering 226 various posts of Police Department

POLICE WELFARE

- Under Police Gruha 2020 scheme administrative approval has been given to construct 11000 quarters at the cost of Rs. 2272.37 Crore. During the last two years construction of 3658 PC quarters and 262 Officers quarters a total of 3920 quarters scheme has been completed
- Under Police Gruha 2025 scheme administrative approval has been given to construct 10034 quarters at the cost of Rs. 2000.00 Crore
- Sanction for upgradation of pay scales of Officers/Staff of Police Department
- Sanction for Hardship allowance to the Police Personnel.
- The Education Assistance (Vidyanidhi) to children of Police Officers and staff under Benevolent Fund has been increased
- Allocation of fund increased to Rs. 57.00 Crore to Rs. 111.00 Crore under Arogya Bhagya Yojane
- Rs. 30.00 lacs announced to the Police Officers/ Staff who died while on Covid-19 duty

Salutations to our braveheart frontline Covid warriors



To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem - Is the fundamental duty of every citizen





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CHENNAI • MADURAI • VJAYAWADA • BANGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOTHKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLI • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRUVRUTHI • KALABURGI

On eve of govt anniversary, BSY left on tenterhooks by top brass

78-year-old, 4-time CM insists he will work for next 10-15 yrs, slaying doubts over his capabilities

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

WILL he, won't he? Even BS Yediyurappa doesn't seem to know whether he will continue in his post or not. On the eve of his government's second anniversary, Yediyurappa was kept waiting for the BJP's Central leadership to decide his fate. No word had come till late Sunday night and Yediyurappa has decided to go ahead with his government's anniversary celebrations, while being mindful of keeping the rest of Monday 'reserved' in case the high command gives its verdict.

Amid indications of an imminent change of guard in the state, the four-time chief minister made it obvious on Sunday that if anybody blinks first, it would not be him. Yediyurappa, who visited rain-affected districts in the Mumbai-Karnataka region on Sunday, said he would continue working as usual until he is asked to resign, repeatedly putting the onus on the BJP central leadership, while asserting that he is up for the task to continue as CM.

"I have decided to work till the very last minute. I haven't received any messages so far. If they ask me to continue, I will. Otherwise, I will resign and work for the party. I am hopeful of getting information either today or tomorrow. I will decide on the future course of action then," said a calm and composed Yediyurappa, speaking to reporters in



Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa addresses villagers in Belagavi district on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

Bengaluru. For two weeks now, Yediyurappa has been insisting that it is up to the party central leadership to decide his fate.

Sources close to the CM insisted that if the party decides to replace him, then it is entirely their decision and not his. "Let me add that I will work for the next 10-15 years for the party's welfare," he said in parting as if to slay all doubts being cast on his capabilities due to age and health.

Yediyurappa said that celebrations marking the completion of two years of his government will continue as planned on Monday and all decisions will be taken after that. Meanwhile, BJP national president JP Nadda, at a press conference in Goa on Sunday, praised Yediyurappa's governance sparking off speculation whether there was a change of plans in replacing the veteran.

REPORT: P6

Six in successor race, BJP brass to take call

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

HAVING done a full background check on six chief ministerial aspirants, the BJP top brass is likely to initiate consultations on identifying the successor to the aging Karnataka incumbent B S Yediyurappa. With Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah and BJP chief J P Nadda returning to Delhi from their respective tours of the Northeast and Goa, consultation with the top Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh leadership is likely before taking the final call.

While Yediyurappa, 78, has been sharing a timeline on how the situation would unfold, the BJP leadership here is patiently watching his show of strength with the Lingayat seers. Their reading is he will not settle peacefully till a prominent position is ensured for his son B Y Vijayendra.

"The BJP leadership, as part of a routine exercise, has done a thorough background check on six candidates. Five of them are B L Santhosh (national organisational secretary), C N Ashwath Narayan (deputy CM), C T Ravi (national general secretary), Muruges Niranjan and Basavaraj Bommai (both state ministers). Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosbole will decide on the successor. There can also be a surprise candidate on the lines of Uttarakhand's Pushkar Singh Dhami," said a senior BJP functionary.

A senior leader said the BJP will not do anything to lose support among Lingayats at a time when the focus is to make inroads into the JD(S)'s Vokkaliga base. Niranjan, meanwhile, reached Delhi, while Union minister Prahlad Joshi will be back from Karnataka. The BJP is keen for a leadership change to ensure sufficient time for the successor to find his feet.

SEERS SHOW OF SUPPORT

More than 450 Lingayat seers from different parts of the state put up a massive show of support for Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, at the Palace Grounds, Bengaluru, on Sunday. The powerful Lingayat mutt swamis said Yediyurappa should continue as Chief Minister.



IT'S COLD TURKEYS FOR INDIA IN HOT TOKYO
Even as the weather turned hotter, India's performances became grim, especially in shooting and hockey. Manu Bhaker's equipment misfired in the women's 10m air pistol. Not a single shooter qualified for the final. In hockey, the men's team conceded seven against Australia. The women's doubles team of Sania Mirza and Anshika Singh too crashed out

Austria's **ANNA KIESENHOFER**, who holds a doctorate in applied mathematics, claimed a stunning gold in the women's road race. Kiesenhofer doesn't have a coach and manages diet on her own. Her CV features more academic accolades than cycling ones: a degree from the Technical University of Vienna, studies at Cambridge and a doctorate from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia.

WOMEN TO THE FORE

While the losses came thick and fast, the wins came in drips. The most significant being **MANIKA BATRA** advancing to the third round after taking down the higher ranked Margaryta Pesotska. Mary Kom moved to the pre-quarters beating an opponent 15 years younger than her while PV Sindhu won her opening round match. | P15,16



Rescue personnel shift residents of Jambagi KD village in Bagalkot district to relief centres, after their houses were submerged in floodwaters | EXPRESS

Rain submerges several villages in Bagalkot dist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

OVERFLOWING Ghataprabha and Krishna rivers have submerged at least 25 villages in Bagalkot district following heavy rains in the region over the past week. Despite some respite from battering rains, water levels in rivers and dams in the Mumbai-Karnataka region continued to rise, leaving several more villages vulnerable to flooding.

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, who visited the rain-affected districts on Sunday to review the situation, assured villagers that a door-to-door survey to assess the damage

will be conducted and the compensation will be decided based on that. Yediyurappa, accompanied by Deputy Chief Ministers Laxman Savadi and Govind Karjol, Ministers Umesh Katti and R Ashoka, visited the areas hit by overflowing Hiranyakeshi river.

At least 600 families have been moved to safer places in Mudhol and Jamkhandi taluks. Seven relief centres opened in Mudhol taluk have accommodated over 1,560 people, while five relief centres of Jamkhandi have given shelter to 161 people. Traffic has been suspended on 13 bridge-cum-barrages built across Ghataprabha river in Mudhol taluk.

FULL COVERAGE: P7

30 MORE KILLED IN MAHARASHTRA

Mumbai: On a day 30 more deaths were reported from the rain-affected districts of Maharashtra, the government on Sunday quantified the total loss, saying 228 people have died, while 100 are missing so far. A majority of the casualties and fatalities were recorded in the Konkan and western regions. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said floodwater has not receded from areas and evacuation operations are still on.

EXPRESS READ

5 new friction points emerge along LAC

New Delhi: Emergence of five more friction points along the LAC and a lack of consensus on troop presence and their withdrawal from points in eastern Ladakh have stalled the draw down process. The friction points have emerged around Kilometer 120 in Galwan, PP 15 and PP 17A at Shoksha La in the north of Pangong, and Rechin La and Rezang La in south of Pangong.

PM calls for 'Nation First' mantra

New Delhi: Stressing on 'Nation First, Always First' mantra, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that as the country enters its 75th year of Independence, every citizen should lead a 'Bharat Jodo Andolan' in the same manner as Mahatma Gandhi led the 'Bharat Chhoro Andolan'. The need is to unite and work towards national progress, Modi said.

NATIONWIDE JULY 24 JULY 25

Fresh cases	39,097	39,742
Recoveries	35,087	39,972
Deaths	546	535

KARNATAKA JULY 24 JULY 25

Fresh cases	1,857	1,001
Recoveries	2,050	1,465
Deaths	29	22

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL
CAMPUS DIGEST

edex
36 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF Fedex
(TABLOID) and 4 of CITY EXPRESS

Sri. Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Implemented 6824 various works across Karnataka under Chief Minister Grama Vikasa Yojane of Rural Development & Panchayath Raj Department.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT

KARNATAKA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED (KRIDL)
(Previous Name: Karnataka Land Army Corporation Limited)

-Building on trust, committed to quality & value

Sri. B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Implemented 924 road development works, building construction works and the other works entrusted by Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board (KKRDB).

Executed rural road development works about 1914 Kilometers length in various parts of the State.

Implemented 108 works relating to construction of "Raitha Samparka Kendra" and 131 other works under different projects of Agriculture Department.

Executed 405 works relating to building construction and repairs / infrastructure development works of Education Department in the State.

Carried out 949 various works in respect of building construction and infrastructure development works relating to Department of Tourism.

Constructed 150 Check Dams and 122 Kilometers length of concrete roads in various Districts entrusted by different Neeravari Corporations.

Carried out 444 various works entrusted by the Minority Department including construction of concrete and bitumen roads.

Executed around 6046 various works including construction of roads, drainage, buildings, development of parks etc., under Chief Minister's Nava Nagarothana Yojane and other Schemes in the Bengaluru City entrusted by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.

823 works relating to construction of Boys/Girls hostel, road developments under different schemes, were executed in respect of Social Welfare Department.

2 Years of Pro-People Governance
ERA OF PROGRESS - AMIDST CHALLENGES

Proposed Statue

Contributed towards the establishment of 05 Oxygen Production plants under Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) in various Taluk level Government Hospitals.

Implemented the works of establishment of Jagajyothi Basaveshwara Statue in Chalukya Circle, Bengaluru out of the grant of BBMP.

Government of Karnataka entrusted work to the KRIDL for establishment of the Monument of Sri Sri Sri Shivakumara Swamiji in Veerapura Village in order to develop a birth place of Sri Sri Sri Shivakumara Swamiji as a world class Model Cultural and Heritage Centre.

Implemented around 21,437 various works across Karnataka being entrusted by the different Departments of Government of Karnataka.

Up gradation of Bhushiri software, uploading of Geo tagged photos through Mobile App, sanction of estimates by using Digital Signature Technology and up gradation of Biometric login software are being implemented in order to **Administer reforms and transparency in the organisation.**

Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Ltd. (KRIDL)
Grameenabhivruddhi Bhavan, 4th and 5th Floor, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - 560009
Phone : 080-28015635/36/46 | E-mail : md@kridl.net | Website : www.kridl.org

"To protect and respect our varied culture and traditions" -is the fundamental duty of every Citizen of our Country. Enshrined in the Constitution

L.K. ATHEEQ, I.A.S.
Principal Secretary to
Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department

GANGADHARA SWAMY, G.M., I.A.S.
Managing Director
Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited

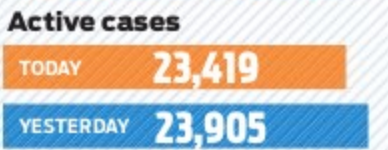
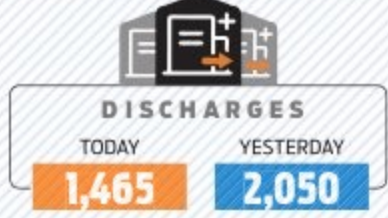
SATURDAY'S: Jumbles:
PAUSE BUGGY SONATA EMBODY
ANSWER: The superhero was out of bed early with plenty of — "GETUP" AND GO

TRACKING COVID-19

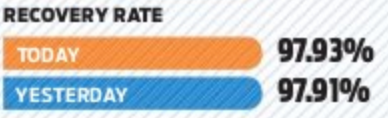
SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA



The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until July 24, 2021, a total of **28,93,556** cases have been reported in 1 year and 134 days...



The day positivity rate **0.68%** is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of 100 tests conducted only in a day.



DAY'S CASE FATALITY RATE GOES UP

Bengaluru: Karnataka on Sunday reported 1,001 new Covid-19 infections and 22 new deaths, and compared to the previous day, the Covid-19 Case Fatality Rate (CFR) for the day increased from 1.56 per cent to 2.19 per cent. CFR is the ratio used to ascertain the risk of dying from a disease. CFR shows how likely a person, if infected with Covid, is to die. It is the ratio between the number of "confirmed cases" and the number of "confirmed deaths", and measures the rate of mortality of the disease. In the state, Haveri and Bagalkote have the highest CFR with 19.23% and 19.05% respectively, in the last seven days. Meanwhile, the day-wise positivity rate decreased from 1.21 per cent to 0.68 per cent. This took the total tally to 28,94,557 and 36,374, respectively. Meanwhile, Bengaluru reported 165 cases and 3 deaths. There were 1,465 discharges in the state and 293 in the capital, which took Karnataka's total recoveries to 28,34,741. Active cases in the state stand at 23,419, which includes 8,215 cases in Bengaluru. The total Covid tests done in the day were 1,46,988. **ENS**

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES LAST 24 HOURS

165	BENGALURU URBAN
14	BENGALURU RURAL
Bagalkote	0
Ballari	6
Belagavi	10
Bidar	1
Chamarajanagar	5
Chikkaballapura	10
Chikkamagaluru	62
Chitradurga	15
Dakshina Kannada	115
Davanagere	1
Dharwad	6
Gadag	5
Hassan	90
Haveri	4
Kalaburagi	4
Kodagu	63
Kolar	25
Koppal	2
Mandya	35
Mysuru	97
Raichuru	0
Ramanagara	7
Shivamogga	51
Tumakuru	42
Udupi	110
Uttara Kannada	54
Vijayapura	1
Yadagir	1

Patients discharged early rush back to hospitals

Around 16% still positive when they arrive at post-Covid clinic

RANJANI MADHAVAN
@ Bengaluru:

INSTEAD of patients with post-Covid complications landing up at the post-Covid clinic of Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases (RGICD), those who were discharged prematurely from smaller private hospitals, and on whom steroids were arbitrarily used, are turning up.

No repeat test is done prior to discharge, so many patients in smaller hospitals are discharged early and given oxygen at home. They turn breathless and develop fever and sepsis (secondary infection) at home. Around 15 per cent of the patients were still positive when they arrived at the post-Covid clinic at RGICD.

"Smaller hospitals do not follow guidelines, and don't use steroids judiciously. This is not the case with tertiary care hospitals. While these have to be administered after day 7, some private hospitals give it in the initial days, hoping the disease will not progress. This leads to more complications like sepsis," said Dr C Nagaraj, director of RGICD.

He informed that both prema-

CASE DATA AT RGICD

- * 17 post-Covid cases in the first wave, none died
- * 62 cases in second wave, 15 died
- * Majority of the cases were men, 27% women
- * 73% of cases were under 60 years old
- * 70% had comorbidities, the most common being diabetes, followed by hypertension
- * Around 15% of patients were still positive when they reached clinic
- * 470 cases came to OPD, of which 16.80% were admitted, remaining sent home with advice
- * 25%-30% had psychological symptoms, fatigue, weakness
- * 8%-10% had actual post-Covid symptoms

ture discharge and overuse of steroids lead to multi-organ failure (with kidney and liver involvement) caused by sepsis or respiratory failure. These have

been the leading cause of death among a majority of the 15 patients at the post-Covid centre. There were 17 post-Covid cases here in the first wave, but none of them succumbed to the infection. During the second wave, 62 cases reached the centre, with 15 fatalities.

Post-Covid complications happen 6-8 weeks after complete cure, with stable clinical parameters. These include air leak syndrome, where patients suffer chest pain, and air collection between the lung and pleura. This is a medical emergency, where the person has to be put on the tube, failing which they die. Those who suffer a stroke are referred to NIMHANS, and those who have cardiac complications are referred to Jayadeva Hospital. Other post-Covid complications include respiratory failure, underlying interstitial lung disease, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which require non-invasive ventilation.

"The take-home message is that hospitals must not discharge patients early, as this prolongs the existing disease, nor must they give steroids irrationally. In addition, a monthly follow-up of Covid patients must be done," he added.

STATE SETS VAX TARGET OF 6 CR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HEALTH and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar said the state aims to vaccinate 6 crore people against Covid-19 in two to three months.

Speaking at a free vaccination drive at MPL company,

Sudhakar said that some parties were spreading fear about Covid vaccines in the country, which is why few people turned up to get the jab initially. He said that taking the vaccine can help people fight Covid-19 effectively, and people are coming forward in larger numbers now that they know this.

"25 per cent of the vaccines are for the private sector. They should come forward and provide it for free to the people. We have been giving treatment, ambulance and Covid tests for free. There will not be a third wave if everyone follows Covid-19 appropriate behaviour," Sudhakar said.



THE FINAL SHOT

An elderly woman waits outside the Dasappa Hospital for the second dose of Covid vaccine, in Bengaluru on Sunday | ASHISH KRISHNA HP

Kerala students reach M'luru, cases shoot up

VINCENT D'SOUZA @ Mangaluru

KERALA'S steep 13 per cent test positivity rate has led to fear of a surge in Covid-19 cases in the border district of Dakshina Kannada, especially in the backdrop of colleges reopening from Monday. On Friday, Dakshina Kannada recorded 295 fresh cases, with a test positivity rate of 4.46 per cent, which is way ahead of the state average of 1.35 per cent.

Health authorities said a significant number of those testing positive in the district over the past few days are students from Kerala who have arrived in Mangaluru to attend exams for various nursing and paramedical courses, and colleges attached to some deemed universities.

Kerala students testing positive caught the local administration completely off-guard. They learnt about it only after starting micro surveillance, after the number of Covid cases started going up in the district. "We started micro sur-

veillance and found out that many students testing positive are hostellers who arrived from Kerala for exams. On the other hand, not many Keralites are testing positive at border checkpoints," said Dr Ashok H, district nodal officer for Covid-19.

Kumar said the situation might turn worse as many colleges begin physical classes from Monday, and hence, the district administration is planning to come up with separate SOPs for the district, and make surveillance more effective.

"There are over 30 nursing and paramedical colleges in Mangaluru, and a majority of its students are from Kerala. Medical, engineering and other colleges also have a significant number of Kerala students. Challenges in the district are different when compared to other parts of the state, so having district-specific SOPs might help check the spread of infection," he said.



Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India



Sri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

KARNATAKA INTRODUCES NEW SCHEME TO ENCOURAGE OXYGEN PRODUCTION

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- Concessional Registration Charges**
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- Land Conversion Fee**
100% reimbursement of land conversion fee for converting land from agricultural use to industrial use



Sri Jagadish Shettar
Hon'ble Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries
Government of Karnataka

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Government of Karnataka

Gunjan Krishna, IAS
Commissioner for Industrial Development
& Director of Industries & Commerce
Government of Karnataka



More than 450 seers attended the Matadeshara Maha Samavesha in Bengaluru on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

Lingayat seers warn of instability if BSY goes

Mutt heads put up show of support for Yediyurappa in Bengaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

MORE than 450 Lingayat seers from different parts of the state put up a massive show of support for Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, at the Palace Grounds, Bengaluru, on Sunday. As news gathered momentum that the BJP leadership might seek Yediyurappa's resignation, the powerful Lingayat mutt swamis who gathered at the 'Matadeshara Maha Samavesha', said Yediyurappa should continue as Chief Minister.

Yediyurappa belongs to the Lingayat community, that constitutes 16-17 per cent of the state population, is influential and a deciding factor in more than 100 constituencies. The Lingayats supported BJP in

the parliamentary polls and 2018 assembly elections in decisive numbers.

The Samavesha was organised by Yediyurappa's supporters. The seers passed a resolution that he should continue as Chief Minister, and each one of them repeatedly stressed that unrest and instability could follow, if Yediyurappa is asked to step down. Party insiders told *TNIE* that the BJP leadership was surprised by the show of strength put up by Yediyurappa, and is closely watching developments in the state.

Sri Shivamurthy Muruga Sharanaru of Murugha Mutt in Chitradurga, Sri Dingaleswar Swami of Balehursur Dingaleshwara Mutt, Sri Rudramuni Mahaswami of Shadakshari Mutt, Tiptur; Sri

Mallikarjuna Devaru Swami of Sarpabhushan Mutt and other important spiritual leaders were part of the meeting.

Meanwhile, analyst B S Murthy said that earlier, when Yediyurappa left the party to start his own political outfit, Karnataka Janata Paksha, he took with him close to 10 per cent of the votes in 2013 polls, and reduced the BJP to third place, with 40 seats fewer than the regional JDS won.

Responding to the gathering, BJP leader and former minister B Somashekar ridiculed the swamis gathered in support of Yediyurappa.

"A time may come when mutts, that have taken over professional colleges, might take over democracy itself," he said, taking a swipe at the swamis.



Members of Karnataka State Backward Classes Awareness Forum and other activists dressed in saffron (khavi) stage a protest urging seers not to meddle in politics in Mysuru on Sunday. "Seers must refrain from politicking and stick to preaching. It is unfortunate that seers are wearing saffron robes and sending out a wrong message to the society," an agitator said | PIC: UDAYASHANKAR S

Yatnal says seers must stay out of politics

MAHESH M GOUDAR @ Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA City BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, a strident critic of CM BS Yediyurappa, has criticised pontiffs, including religious heads of Veerashaiva-Lingayat mutts, for interfering in politics. "There should be no political interference while appointing heads of mutts... Similarly, there should be no religious interference in political appointments," he said, indirectly criticising seers for backing Yediyurappa.

"If the pontiffs of the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community are lobbying for one particular leader, this will have an impact on the religious heads of other communities. This might result in an unprecedented political turmoil in the state. This will also bring a bad name to our community," the Veerashaiva-Lingayat strongman said. "The seers should raise their voice and fight on behalf of all the Hindus when pontiffs, religious heads, saints, Hindu karyakartas, temples and mutts are attacked... not for the sake of one person (Yediyurappa)," he said.

POLITICAL THEATRE

Former MP predicts mid-term polls

MYSURU: Former MP and JDS leader L R Shivaram Gowda on Sunday said that a change in leadership in the state BJP, followed by a Cabinet expansion, would lead to political uncertainty and result in mid-term polls in the state. "No one should be surprised if polls are held next year," he said, adding that the BJP was a divided house—a section in favour of CM BS Yediyurappa and the other wanting his ouster. He hit out at the government for "failing to handle the Covid-19 and the flood situation in the state." ENS



As the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the state, I don't have any information (regarding the ongoing leadership issue). Whatever information I have is from the media

Nalin Kumar Kateel, state BJP president and Dakshina Kannada Member of Parliament

Top brass decision final: Renukacharya

DAVANGERE: BJP MLA and Chief Minister BS

Yediyurappa's political secretary MP Renukacharya on Sunday said that he will abide by the party high command's decision on the leadership issue. Speaking to reporters at Honnali, the MLA said that he was not aspiring to be a minister. He, however, said if given an opportunity, he will perform well. "The decision taken by the high command needs to be followed by all legislators, including me. At present, I have no information on any talks between the chief minister and the central leaders," Renukacharya said. "I am a staunch party worker and capable of handling any portfolio given to me. I am not demanding any post," he said. A staunch supporter of CM Yediyurappa, Renukacharya had recently visited New Delhi and met the party central leaders. ENS



I've enjoyed all positions, bound by high command decision: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

"I have enjoyed all the positions in the party and government, and it is more than what any other leader in the State has experienced. I am thankful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda. I am satisfied and happy. I am bound by any decision that the high command takes," said Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, here on Sunday.

Asked whether his removal would damage the party as he is the key person in getting the saffron party its first government in South India, Yediyurappa said, "There will be no damage. There are several tall leaders in the party. All are bound by the decision taken by the high command and we will all work together. Our target is to complete the remaining term of our government and to bring the party back to power in the State."

On Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah's statement that the BJP will not come to power, the chief minister said he will not react to the opposition leader's criticism. "Let there be a hundred people like Siddaramaiah, but we will still come to power again," he said confidently.

'Coordinating with Maha on release of Krishna waters'

Yediyurappa said that he held a meeting with ministers and MLAs of Belagavi to discuss Maharashtra's demand to include Belagavi city and other



Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa presides over a flood relief meeting in Belagavi on Sunday. Deputy CM Govind Karjol and Laxman Savadi are seen

areas into that state, and the flood situation in the district as 113 villages in seven taluks have been affected. Till now, 19,035 people have been shifted to safer places, while 8,975 have been moved to 89 care centres. "The victims are happy with the facilities provided," he added.

"All the dams and reservoirs along the Krishna river basin in Maharashtra are full and large amounts of water are being released into the river. We are in constant touch with ministers of Maharashtra and closely monitoring the water flow levels. As all dams on Karnataka's side are full, we too have increased the outflows, which has caused floods in some places. This could intensify further," he cautioned.

"To tackle the flood situa-

tion and to conduct rescue operations, seven NDRF and 15 SDRF teams with 208 personnel, firefighters, emergency rescue teams and gram panchayat level teams have been deputed wherever needed. There is no shortage of funds to carry out these operations. If any problems with finances arise, deputy commissioners will release funds immediately," he said.

"Bridges, roads and other infrastructure have been damaged due to floods. Funds will also be released to take up temporary repair works. We will send a letter to the Central Government to release funds to take up permanent works. If possible, I will visit Uttara Kannada district on Monday afternoon as it is the most affected this time," he said.



All are bound by the decision taken by the high command. Our target is to complete the remaining term of our government and to bring the party back to power in the State.

BS Yediyurappa, Chief Minister



Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa interacts with a flood victim in Belagavi district on Sunday

KATEEL SLAMS SIDDU OVER 'SC AS CM' CHALLENGE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Udupi

BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel on Sunday said 30 per cent of ministers in the Union Cabinet belong to Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes. His statement comes at a time when a fresh round of war of words has erupted between the BJP and Congress over naming a member belonging to the SC community as chief minister.

After participating in a paddy field rejuvenation programme in Parkala near Udupi, the Dakshina Kannada MP said it was the BJP that made an SC leader the President and Congress has done nothing for SC/ST communities. "So, the challenge posed



BJP state chief Nalin Kumar Kateel transplants a paddy sapling at Parkala in Udupi district on Sunday

to the BJP by other political parties questioning its commitment to SC/ST leaders does not have any meaning," Kateel said.

Reacting to Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah's challenge to the BJP to make an SC leader state's next chief minister, Kateel said that it was Siddaramaiah who sidelined G Parameshwar during his tenure as chief minister. "After he became the CM, Siddaramaiah buried the discussion on making an SC leader the chief minister," Kateel added.

On change of leadership in Karnataka, Kateel said, "As the president of the party in the state, I don't have any information. Whatever information I have is from the media."

Praising BS Yediyurappa, Kateel said the chief minister gave priority to farmers by presenting the state's first farmers' budget. "He also waived farm loans."

Dissolve Assembly and seek fresh mandate, Shivakumar tells BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KPCC President DK Shivakumar challenged Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to dissolve the assembly and go the people for a fresh mandate. He was speaking to the media at his Sadashtivanagar home in Bengaluru, after accepting the state-level Covid-19 supervisory committee report. He said the report would be sent to AICC.

"People of the state are struggling to save their lives due to flood and Covid, and the government has failed them. It

should dissolve the current legislature and face elections," he said. "Our CM is visiting the flood-hit areas. We aren't worried about what happens to his position. The state has been hit by floods for three years. From our party, teams under the leadership of RV Deshpande and Satish Jarkholi are inspecting the flood-hit areas."

Addressing the BJP, Shivakumar said, "Belagavi district has more than 10 MLAs from the ruling party, even then no one visit the flood-hit areas last year."

He said that during the Cov-

id crisis, his party distributed food kits, oxygen and sanitiser from its own money. "We worked with the government, providing 1,225 ambulances. We gave 12,53,000 medical kits, 93,47,867 food kits and 24,654 oxygen cylinders. We also unearthed the bed scandal and medicine scandal," he said.

He said the Congress has sought a Covid death audit. "The chief minister himself informed the central ministry that no death happened due to oxygen shortage, then why did the government give ₹2 lakh in compensation to the 24 families of Chamara-janagar," he asked.

₹20K cr will be given to 30L farmers as loan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

TO help farmers impacted by Covid, the State Government has increased the target of agriculture lending in the cooperative sector, said Cooperative and Mysuru district in-charge minister ST Somashekar here on Sunday.

He said that over Rs 20,810 crore will be lent to over 30 lakh farmers. This is 14 per cent more than the target last year,

he said, inaugurating the executive committee meeting of State BJP Raitha Morcha.

"Farmers will get short-term loans at zero per cent interest. We have instructed all Apex and DCC banks that farmers should not face any problems while getting loans," he said.

The new APMC system has streamlined the system of selling agri-produce and it has helped farmers, he claimed. "Earlier, Rs 1.5 cess used to be charged per quintal of produce sold at APMC.

This has been brought down to 60 paise. Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa has announced that all APMCs will be developed and each APMC will be given Rs 25 crore to take up development works," he added.

Earlier, Rajya Sabha member and state BJP Raitha Morcha president Eranna Kadadi said that while opposition parties are projecting new laws as anti-farmer, the Raitha Morcha will sensitise ryots about the benefits.



Oscar continues to be critical, but stable

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

A stream of political leaders, cutting across party lines, called on former union minister and Rajya Sabha MP Oscar Fernandes—who is in a critical condition after a fall in his house on Sunday. The leaders, who visited the hospital and enquired about Oscar's health from the doctors and family members, include former un-

ion minister and Congress leader M Veerappa Moily, Minister for Social Welfare and Muzrai Kota Srinivas Poojary, MLA Vedavyas Kamath, Mangaluru Mayor Premananda Shetty, Dakshina Kannada MP Nalin Kumar Kateel and others. The leaders hailed Oscar as a tall leader and wished him a speedy recovery.

Sources said Oscar continues to be critical but stable. There was some improvement in his health on Saturday and he was found moving his hands. The doctors will take a call on Monday with regard to dialysis. Since he is still unconscious, doctors are not able to take a call on operating him to remove the blood clot in his brain.



INL splits as Kerala state president, general secretary expel each other

Scuffle begins after few leaders object to Kassim's action of suspending 2 secretariat members

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

A meeting of the leaders of the Indian National League (INL), an LDF ally, to avoid an imminent split in the party took an ugly turn here on Sunday when two sections of the workers entered into a street fight. Later, declaring the split a reality, the warring factions ousted party state president and general secretary after holding two separate meetings.

INL state president A P Abdul Wahab removed general secretary Kassim Irikkur from the post while Kassim expelled Wahab and seven others alleging they violated party discipline. Party insiders said the tug of war for power between the president and the general secretary culminated in the split. Ports Minister Ahmed Devarkovil is Kassim's nominee and all key decisions were taken unilaterally by the general secretary. De-



Kerala Ports, Museums & Archaeology Minister Ahmed Devarkovil comes out of the Indian National League meeting in Kochi on Sunday | EXPRESS

varkovil was fielded in Kozhikode South seat this assembly polls replacing Wahab who contested unsuccessfully last time. The Kassim Irikkur faction also enjoys the support of the INL national leadership.

The scuffle began at the state committee meeting when a section of leaders objected to Kas-

sim's action of suspending two members of the party secretariat. There were allegations that the party leadership had sold the PSC member post allotted to INL. Besides, the appointment of three CPM members in the personal staff of Minister Devarkovil also created resentment. That culminated in the

party leadership initiating disciplinary action against some of its functionaries. Subsequently, state president Wahab called off the meeting.

Amid the melee, Devarkovil was escorted out of the hotel. He did not respond on the party issues. The INL, which has become an official ally of the LDF after 24 years of partnership, was formed in 1994 after a split in the Indian Union Muslim League. The Muslim League and the CPM are closely watching the developments in INL, with senior leader P K Kunhalikutty welcoming the rebel leaders to the Muslim League. The CPM and the LDF have not responded so far.

Under the circumstances, the INL leadership has cancelled the state secretariat meeting that was scheduled to be held after the state committee. Later, both factions convened two separate meetings at Thoppumpady and Aluva.

WREAKING HAVOC Rain lashes Bagalkot: 25 villages submerged, 600 families shifted



People move to safer places with their cattle after a flood alert was sounded in Jamkhandi on Sunday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bagalkot

AT least 25 villages were submerged after Ghataprabha and Krishna rivers overflowed in the district on Sunday. Though the rainfall in the Western Ghats has reduced, the water level continued to rise in the last 24 hours.

As the rivers are in full spate, at least 600 families have been moved to safer places in Mudhol and Jamkhandi by respective taluk administrations. As many as 16 and seven villages in Mudhol and Jamkhandi taluks respectively, have been severely affected by the floods.

Apart from this, in 36 villages, houses in low-lying

areas were inundated and families were moved to relief centers.

The district administration said, "A total of seven relief centres opened in Mudhol taluk and accommodated over 1,560 people. Sangamesh Badagi, tahsildar of Mudhol, told *The New Indian Express* that, "The Ghataprabha river is likely to flow at an alarming level in the next 24 hours. After 36 hours, the water level is likely to recede as the rainfall has stopped completely and outflow from Hidkal dam has also reduced." Meanwhile, Almatti Dam reported a record inflow of 3 lakh cusecs on Sunday. It is the highest inflow recorded in the last three years.

“Mirji, Nagral, Bidari, and 12 other villages were affected by floods. In Jamkhandi, five relief centres have been opened. Muttur, Jambagi and few other villages of Jamkhandi taluk are the worst affected”
Bagalkot district administration



Former Kannada lecturer ends life

Bengaluru: A 42-year-old woman ended her life by suicide in Nelamangala in Bengaluru Rural district, on Saturday night. The deceased, Meena DS, is a resident of Somoji Rao Layout in Vijayanagar. "A postgraduate in Kannada literature, Meena was working as a Kannada lecturer at a private college on a contract basis but had left the job about three years ago. Earlier, she had also written KPSC exams but had not cleared them even after a few attempts. As she could not achieve anything big in life, she had slipped into depression. Her parents had also intervened and had tried to counsel her on several occasions," the police said. **ENS**

Domestic help arrested for theft

Bengaluru: The Jeevan Bheema Nagar police arrested a house help who had allegedly committed theft at her employer's house. Police recovered gold jewelry worth Rs 5 lakh from her. Police said, the accused, Ruchita Jadhav (40), was hired by Trupthi Mithun Chikhalikar. Recently, Jadhav had stopped going to work and the employer who grew suspicious, checked for valuables and found gold jewelry worth Rs 5 lakh missing. "We have recovered the stolen jewelry intact. The accused claimed that she had committed the theft to arrange money for her brother's medical treatment," the police added. **ENS**

57 held for gambling

Bengaluru: The Indiranagar police raided a club where gambling was organised, flouting Covid guidelines, and arrested 57 people. Police said they received information that gambling was organised at Phoenix Recreation Club on KT Road. Following information, the police raided the club to find several people indulged in gambling. "As many as 57 people, including the staff of the club, were arrested. We recovered Rs 2.37 lakh in cash and swiping machines," the police added. **ENS**

Hampi ruins to shine bright at night, project to begin by August 15

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @Hosapete

THE famous ruins of Hampi will be lit up at night to give an exquisite and unique experience to tourists visiting the World Heritage Site soon. The project, Hampi by Night, will be up and running by August 15, with officials giving final touches to it.

The monuments will be illuminated and the tour will be accompanied by musical rendition of the importance of each sculpture in Kannada, English and Hindi.

Seventeen monuments, including Virupaksha temple, Narasimha temple, Gejjala Mantap and Kamal Mahal, have been selected for the project.

Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority (HW-HAMA) Commissioner Siddar-



A file picture of illuminated monuments during one of the previous editions of Hampi By Night | EXPRESS

ameshwar said the contract to develop the project has been handed over to a private company and technical works have already started at the monument site.

"The dates for the launch will be finalised soon," he said.

Another senior officer said that the government has sanctioned Rs 11 crore for the

project. "In our next meeting, we will finalise the entry fee and timings for the tour. We are also planning to introduce packages for tourists. Earlier, the monuments were illuminated only during Hampi Utsav. Once the project is completed, illuminated monuments can be seen every evening," he added.

Andhra seeks KRMB's nod to generate power in Srisaillam

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh government has sought permission from the Krishna River Management Board to generate hydel power at the Srisaillam Right Power House by APGENCO as inflows into the reservoir are on the rise. Water Resources Department Engineer-in-Chief C Narayana Reddy wrote a letter to the KRMB member-secretary explaining the situation at Srisaillam and requested him to allow APGENCO to utilise flood water for power generation. **ENS**

TOUGH MEASURE

Kerala govt to ask staff to submit no-dowry affidavit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

TIGHTENING its screws on dowry seekers, the state government has decided to strictly implement the rule insisting all its employees to submit an affidavit countersigned by their spouses and fathers-in-law stating that they have not taken or given dowry.

The department heads should compile the reports and hand them over to the district dowry prohibition officer every six months. In case of filing fake affidavits, legal and departmental action will be initiated against the erring officers.

The order issued by the department of women and child development said that even government employees are not free from the regressive practice and that the Dowry Prohibition Act should be implemented

strictly to put an end to this.

Though there are rules that mandate the government employees to present such an affidavit at the time of joining, it has been noticed that they are not being followed in full spirit.

The involvement of some government officials in the recent dowry-related suicides also prompted the government to take such a step.

Meanwhile, the government is also planning to make the affidavits mandatory for private-sector employees as well.

The existing rules do not prevent a couple from receiving gifts during their marriage, provided they make a list of items that they had received as gifts and counter-sign them. It has, however, been observed that the provision is widely being misused and the couple seldom prepare such a list.



Mystery trails in Veerappan land may see revival

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

ONCE a much sought-after trail for trekking enthusiasts, the 8-20-km Gopinatham Veerappan trails has slowly fallen off their radar. Now, the Karnataka forest and tourism departments have big plans to bring back the crowd and are designing a complete experience package for visitors.

To get rid of the negative image associated with forest brig-

and Veerappan who once terrorised the region, they want to rebrand it as 'Mystery Trails', which was also part of the recent budget document of the state government. Officials of both departments have conducted a recce of the region and are working on opening up for tourists by December-end.

"Since the last couple of years, no one, including forest department officials, are visiting the area. Tourists come to the Gopinatham Jungle Lodges and Resorts (JLR) for stay and

then leave. Now we are working on offering more. Those interested can go for the trek. It was never stopped, but people stopped coming." Chief Conservator of Forests, Chamara-janagar, Manoj Kumar told *The New Indian Express*.

Places where forest and police department officials died on duty will be showcased. The waterfalls in the region, including the Hogenakkal Falls, will also be showcased and even a safari is being planned, he added.

"Tented accommodation is already available in Gopinatham and those interested can take the trail. We are also planning to start independent trekking. Work on improving the safari roads and view-points is also going on," said JLR Managing Director Kumar Pushkar adding that Rs 5 crore has been kept aside for the project.

Conservationists and forest officials pointed out that it was one of the most popular and crucial trekking routes.



FAITH UNSHAKEN

A devotee and her daughter pray while wading through knee-deep waters at Aluva Mahadeva temple on Sunday. Following a heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of Periyar, the river banks in Aluva were inundated | A SANESH

WHEN FENCE EATS THE CROP: NO CASES AGAINST COPS FOR FRAMING MAN

MG CHETAN @Bengaluru

MORE often than not, police personnel who are caught on the wrong side of the law get away with just a suspension. Though there is a provision to book criminal cases against them, generally this is not done, and those caught on the wrong foot rejoin service after the suspension is revoked.

On Thursday, four police staffers, including the inspector of RMC Yard police station, Parvatham, were suspended for allegedly forcing a man to smoke ganja and falsely booking him under the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The victim, unable to bear the humiliation, later attempted to kill himself by consuming poison. Though the errant police staff can be booked for criminal offence, no case was registered against them. They were only suspended.

Senior police officers *TNIE* spoke to said they (suspended staff) can be booked under applicable sections of the IPC for hoisting a false case, but a de-

partmental enquiry can bring them to justice by awarding the maximum punishment, which is dismissal from the service, based on the evidence.

Former DG & IGPST Ramesh said that in this particular case, it will be difficult to link the police action and the subsequent suicide bid by the victim. "Of course, a criminal case can be registered against them. It is the discretion of senior officers to book them, but a proper departmental enquiry is more effective in such cases. The maximum punishment that can be awarded through departmental enquiries is dismissal," he explained.

He noted that if a criminal case is booked against errant officials, the legal aspects will take more time. "Delivering quick justice is as important as giving punishment. Quick justice can be delivered through departmental enquiries, whereas legal trial can prolong the delivery of justice," Ramesh said.

A serving IPS officer said booking officials under criminal cases is decided based on the seriousness of the offence.

Ramappa temple makes it to UNESCO's World Heritage Sites

A delegate from Brazil has termed Ramappa temple as a masterpiece of creative human genius and the best surviving example of Kakatiyan culture | EXPRESS



VIVEK BHOOMI @Hyderabad

IT was a moment of glory for India and Telangana when the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee inscribed the iconic Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) temple at Palampet in Mulugu district in Telangana, built in 13th Century, inscribed in the list of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites on Sunday.

Even as the International Council on Monuments and

Sites recommended deferring of the nomination citing that the criteria for nomination were not satisfied and the delegate from Norway raising similar objections, a majority of countries including Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mali, China, Oman, Brazil, Egypt, Spain, and Kyrgyzstan among 21 countries, gave an overwhelming support for inscribing the Ramappa site in the world heritage site list.

As the news broke out, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, Union Minister of Culture G Kishan Reddy, Chief Minister and Municipal Administration Minister K T Rama Rao, among others, expressed their joy over the Ramappa temple getting world recognition. State Minister for Tourism V Srinivasa Goud said Telangana has ten more such monuments for which the government would strive to get similar status.





INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

MAMATA READIES FOR TOP ROLE ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

If there was even an iota of doubt about Mamata Banerjee positioning herself as the prime ministerial candidate of an Opposition coalition, it got dissipated after she engineered her election as the Trinamool Congress Parliamentary Party's head. Didi didn't need to hold that position ever since she became chief minister of West Bengal in 2011, as her writ runs in the regional party she founded. Now that she has given herself a parliamentary position without being a member of Parliament, Mamata has made her intentions clear. At 66, age is on her side. Her recent call for Opposition unity in her address from Kolkata—telecast simultaneously at multiple regional capitals for the first time—had the right nuance. Though the next general elections are more than two-and-a-half years away, putting off the cobbling together of an Opposition alliance to a much later date could be counterproductive, she warned. But one half of her choice of leaders to take the coalition initiative forward was curious—Sharad Pawar of the NCP and P Chidambaram of the Congress. For, no one, including himself, knows where Chidambaram stands in his party's matrix. While Mamata is believed to have lined up a meeting with Sonia Gandhi during her visit to Delhi, snubbing the Gandhis by not mentioning them in her video address sent out a loaded political message.

Though Mamata may be ready to lead the Opposition, the moot point is whether other regional parties would agree to rally around her. For, she is seen as at least as autocratic as the dispensation she seeks to replace. She has worked in coalitions before, but her ability to run a grouping of disparate national and regional parties, which involves flexibility, political trade-offs and listening more than speaking, is yet to be tested. And her record at development is at best patchy.

A fractured Opposition is what the BJP would be counting on as five states, including the all important Uttar Pradesh, go to polls in about eight months. Just the other day, BSP leader Mayawati appeared to shake off sloth and spoke about the need for a united Opposition. If Mamata can somehow catalyse coalition building in UP, it would be a giant step towards realising her national ambitions.

PREPARE FOR EXTREME RAINFALL EVENTS

The rain mayhem has left a trail of devastation across states in India. Maharashtra has borne the brunt but so have Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. Not to forget the fury Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh have witnessed. We are just in the middle of the monsoon. There are a few good months left for the storm season to come up and the recurrence of such extreme events can never be predicted. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) acknowledges that the country has been witness to an increased number of natural disasters. India had reported just one severe cyclone in 2016; it witnessed six each in 2018 and 2019. Last year, five severe storms left their deadly imprint. The heavy rainfall events during the monsoon season alone are alarmingly rising. From 226 extremely heavy rainfall events (in 2016) to 554 (2019) and 341 (2020), the incidence of extreme localised rainfall has greatly multiplied flood risk in the country.

But India is not alone in this crisis of climate change. Germany woke up to the horrors of floods two weeks ago. At least 15 cm rain in 24 hours and Germany was left to count its losses, estimated at a staggering 5 billion euros. Zhengzhou, the capital of China's Henan province, reported over 21 cm rain in a day. Much of this dropped in the first few hours, leaving the city trapped in water. These extreme rainfall events forebode a dark future fraught with incalculable damage to life and property, and India must be ready for this. Its exposure to natural calamities and ability to absorb the shock in economic terms would be humongous. What it requires is a robust disaster management plan, not a piecemeal approach by states. The MoES already has a first-of-its-kind comprehensive report on assessment of climate change that must be activated. States like Odisha have shown the path to dealing with such vagaries of nature. However, much more and on a national scale needs to be done because climate change is hitting India where it hurts most—the poorest of the poor.



Health is the greatest gift, contentment is the greatest wealth, a trusted friend is the best relative, Nibbana is the greatest bliss

Siddhartha Gautama

The court needs to act and act swiftly. Democracy is threatened. Individual freedoms are at risk and so are our constitutional values

PEGASUS MISUSE: OVER TO THE SUPREME COURT

KAPIL SIBAL



Senior lawyer, Congress leader and member of Rajya Sabha

The world has not fully comprehended the emancipation of the individual in our fast-changing technology environment. At the same time, the world has not fully comprehended the dangers that beset this emancipation. Technology empowers us in many ways. Children who have access to contemporary technology and innovations are enabled to discover the world sitting at their homes; to understand and access solutions that may not be available in the classroom, and above all, reach out to those dear to them around the world. Teachers empower themselves by upgrading their knowledge in ways unheard of before. Scientists exchange views on matters that concern humankind. Knowledge sharing has become much easier and platforms are built to communicate new ideas and skills in a jiffy. Goods and services are delivered at the doorstep from within and across borders. Future wars will be fought in cyberspace. The mind cannot today fathom the multifarious uses of technology for the common good. This level of emancipation has never been witnessed in the history of mankind before.

However, technology also brings with it dangers that may emasculate our cherished freedoms and institutional integrity, especially

when misused by an omnipresent, all-powerful state or even rogue players. It can pry into our everyday lives, see what we do, hear what we say, watch wherever we go. The state can take hold of our lives in multiple ways not known before. It can access activities of those saddled in the layers of power, who are institutionally obliged to watch the state and keep it on track within the framework of our Constitution. It can compromise constitutional authorities and pollute the free flow of ideas when falsehood is allowed to be masqueraded as truth. Technology allows the state to discreetly survey and track from afar. It can take over the emancipation of the individual by enslaving him within its fold.

Pegasus has demonstrated that technology can also infiltrate, not across borders but into our minds. Those using it are the new *ghuspathiyas*. Journalists, academics, lawyers, political opponents, bureaucrats and those in the judiciary—none is spared. An upright bureaucrat can be made pliant. Institutions can be compromised. Lives can be wrecked silently. The fact that Pegasus was used between 2017 and 2019 suggests that the electoral process too might have been polluted and a level playing field, the fundamental premise of

an electoral battle, might have been skewed. There is also a possibility that some state governments, through Pegasus, may well have been toppled with the flow of information that such technology allows. No individual or institution is safe if the state chooses to target them.

So where do we go from here? Technology is here to stay. The architecture of the future will be designed by multifarious technological frameworks and solutions. Even if we wish, we cannot get rid of it. We will be living in a more open society where individuals, willy-nilly will be sharing their choices with technological platforms for ease of living, apart from ease of doing business. We need to develop a robust set of rules that technology applications must adhere to. The judiciary must stand up and take note of these developments. The Su-



Pegasus has demonstrated that technology can also infiltrate, not across borders but into our minds. The fact that it was used between 2017 and 2019 suggests that the electoral process too might have been polluted

preme Court, in particular, must seize this opportunity to assess the extent to which Pegasus has infiltrated into the lives of individuals who were targeted. The court must ensure accountability of those who use these means for partisan ends.

This is an issue that touches upon the lives of every citizen. The fundamental question to be decided is whether it is legitimate to use technology to access the lives of people. The website of Pegasus suggests that this technology is to be used only to thwart potential acts of terror and serious crimes. This technology is licensed with the approval of the Ministry of Defence of Israel. The terms and conditions of the licence require it to be used only for limited purposes. There is no oversight either within the country or outside to ensure that this technology is not misused in the manner in which individuals, far removed from terror or serious crimes, are targeted, as is evident from the list of names now disclosed. There is no mechanism in place to prevent state actors from misusing this technology. Therefore, fundamentally, should such technologies be allowed to be used at all? Today, we have Pegasus. Tomorrow, we may have other similar technologies created or devised by domestic players who might wish to

use it with similar intent as demonstrated by the use of Pegasus.

While none can object to its use to deal with terror; one wonders what the understanding of this government is about 'serious crimes' in the context of use of such technologies. Is a journalist who writes against the establishment guilty of serious crimes? Has *Dainik Bhaskar*, which publishes news items demonstrating the intransigence of the state in matters of liberty, committed a serious crime? Are bureaucrats snooped upon threats to the security of the state? Are officials working in the Supreme Court a threat to the integrity of the institution? These are questions that need clear answers from the government. We need to devise mechanisms, both at the domestic and global levels, to sanctify rules of procedure to protect the freedom and privacy of individuals.

It is not the time to sit back. The court needs to act and act swiftly. Democracy is threatened. Individual freedoms are at risk and so are the constitutional values on the foundation of which our Republic is built. It is the court's duty to protect those values. None other; this government in particular; has demonstrated any desire to do so. Over to you, Supreme Court.

(*Tweets@KapilSibal*)

MAKING SENSE OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL SERO-SURVEY

DR CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA



Epidemiologist and public health specialist

The fourth round of the nationwide seroprevalence survey has revealed that 67.6% of India's population has antibodies against SARS-CoV-2. This sero-survey included those in the six years and above population as well as healthcare workers. The seroprevalence in urban and rural areas are 69.6% and 66.7%; the difference was not statistically significant. The seroprevalence in the 6-17 years and adult population was very similar and when adjusted for vaccination, the difference was not statistically significant. The seroprevalence in those vaccinated was higher than those not vaccinated, a factor also reflected in the higher seroprevalence in the 45-plus age group (which started vaccination on March 1) in comparison to the 18-44 age group (for which vaccination started on May 1). The seroprevalence in healthcare workers was 85.2%, higher than any other subgroup. This survey was conducted in the same districts where the previous three sero-surveys were done, which makes comparisons internally valid.

Scientifically, antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 can be detected around 10-14 days after natural infection or the vaccination. As the samples for this sero-survey were collected in the last 10 days of June and first week of July, the findings

capture the seroprevalence for around June 20 (10 days before the midpoint). Till June 20, India had reported three crore cases. For every officially reported Covid-19 case, there were about 28-30 unreported ones in the country, a pattern very similar to previous national surveys. From then to now, 13 lakh additional cases have been reported and around 12 crore additional vaccine shots have been administered. Therefore, the proportion of the population with antibodies is likely to have crossed 70% by July 20. The susceptible population in India remains around 30%, or about 40 crore.

The findings of the sero-survey are reassuring in some sense. The third sero-survey (Dec 2020-Jan 2021) reported that around 24% of India's population had antibodies and 76% were susceptible. The high susceptible pool of people and highly transmissible Delta variant were responsible for the ferocious second wave. The susceptible pool is far smaller now compared to before the second wave. There are a few practical implications of the findings.

If the seroprevalence is adjusted for the vaccination in adult age subgroups, it is very clear that children have a very similar or even higher rate of infections than the adults. A few sero-surveys including one con-

ducted by AIIMS, New Delhi, has found that up to three-fourth of total children in the survey population had antibodies, well before the middle of the second wave of the pandemic. The proportion of susceptible children is likely to have gone down further since then. Alongside this, various analyses of hospitalised Covid-19 cases have pointed out that the share of children as a proportion of total hospital admission for the virus remains very low. These findings assure us that our children are protected and at low risk. They scientifically dispel the undue concern that children would be at excessive risk in subsequent waves. In fact, the findings of the national survey make a strong case for governments giving serious consideration to open schools with due planning and precautions. By July 2021, schools have been functioning in 170 countries across the world and evidence is piling up that with precautions, schools do not pose much risk to children. Evidence supports that benefits of children coming to school are far greater than any minimal risk associated.



The findings of the fourth nationwide sero-survey in India are reassuring in some sense. They provide useful insights on a possible next wave, opening of schools and targeted ramping up of vaccinations. They scientifically dispel the undue concern that children would be at excessive risk in subsequent waves

Even that small risk can be ameliorated with effective planning.

The findings provide some additional insight into the susceptible pool and extent of the next wave of Covid. Aggregate data shows that the susceptible pool at the national level is declining; however, it is difficult to assess whether and where there could be pockets of susceptible populations with larger pools. Therefore, it is still possible to have localised/district-specific and statewide rise in cases and new waves. Alongside, as the susceptible pool of people has come down to around 30% (in comparison to 76% before the second wave), the next wave would be far smaller than the second wave in India. Some of the unknowns that are impossible to predict are the emergence of a new variant and how it will respond to existing antibodies. Therefore, we can be assured of smaller waves but should be cautious enough to increase vaccination and follow Covid-appropriate behaviour as it takes a minimum of 4-6 weeks, generally even longer, to identify a new variant after it has emerged.

The findings of national surveys can and should be used by state authorities with available findings from local and state-specific surveys for targeted ramping up of vaccination and Covid-appropriate behaviour. If needed, additional sero-surveys should be conducted in identified high-priority districts for local interventions.

The seroprevalence in rural and urban populations have been found to be almost similar. The health infrastructure in rural areas has

been weaker than urban settings and it may have an impact on case fatality rate and resulting deaths in India, with under-reporting highly debated in the country. The sero-survey data can be used by epidemiologists and disease modellers to provide better insight on excess deaths in India.

There is likely a temptation among some to conclude that India is approaching herd or population immunity. However, there is a need for being cautious before arriving at any such conclusion as we know new variants can be more transmissible (for example, Delta can spread 50-70% faster). It is also known that as the transmissibility of a virus or pathogen increases, the herd immunity threshold goes up. Currently, the herd immunity threshold is being considered 85% or higher, which is further away. Furthermore, neither vaccination nor natural infection fully stop the likelihood of disease transmission. Therefore, having antibodies should not be seen as equivalent to having protection from getting infected or stopping the transmission.

The fourth nationwide sero-survey has provided important insights into the pandemic and the proportion of population affected. Now, it is for technical experts and policymakers to use this information for effective pandemic response and development of appropriate strategies.

(*Dr Lahariya is the co-author of the book 'Till We Win: India's Fight Against The Covid-19 Pandemic'*) (*c.lahariya@gmail.com*)

MAIL BAG WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

A good beginning for India

The two-decade long wait for a weightlifting medal in the Olympics has ended after Mirabai Chanu clinched a silver in the 49 kg category (*Mira-cle Lady*, July 25). The excellent performance on the opening day is a good start and brings hope that there will be more medals in the days to come. **K R Srinivasan, Secunderabad**

Unity in diversity

The Manipur weightlifter's silver has united the country with leaders from all over India, including the TN chief minister, sending congratulatory messages, showing we are one despite diversity. If efforts are taken from now

on to prepare for the 2036 Olympics, we could reap more medals. A country that has the highest youth population can do wonders if the youngsters are provided a path to bring out their talents. **Rajakumar Arulanantham, Palayamkottai**

Laurels to Northeast

Hats off to her dedication. She brought laurels to the Northeast. It is also a befitting reply to those who perceive people from that region as different. **M Rishidev, Dindigul**

Respect creative instincts

The article *India under intolerant Indians* (July 25) is thought-provoking.

So long as politics pokes its nose into the temples of learning and never respects one's free will, intelligence and creative instincts, even the question of producing original thinkers in our universities does not arise. **R Pichumani, Kumbakonam**

Tolerance no one-way street

The approval of the National Education Policy (NEP) by the Central government last year is an indication that education is an important topic among policymakers today. And the apparent intolerance displayed by Indian society is partly due to the awareness that tolerance cannot be one-way traffic leading to appeasement, for example

when it comes to dealing with a recalcitrant neighbouring country. **Dharmarajan A K, Thalassery**

Challenges around us

The Lankan government has handed over acres of reclaimed land to China. On our western side, the Taliban has conquered a lot of Afghan territory, of course with the help of Pakistan. The power equation in Asia is going to change drastically. In this context, India should become an economic powerhouse and also enhance military capabilities considerably and independently. We cannot expect any sort of cooperation in the near future from the US or Russia. **V V Venkatachalam, Bengaluru**

Looking for the Aatma

This is with reference to *Aatma-Stuti: A didactic tale on self-praise* (July 21). The author deserves praise for his interesting narration and wonderful photos in support of the same. But while narcissism has to do with the body and outside, soul searching is an inner mechanism. The former pushes one to the nadir while the latter elevates us to the pinnacle of spirituality. Our ancient *Srutis* and *Smritis* aver that continuous searching for the Aatma leads to *Aatma Saakshaatkaaram* and ensures a place in paradise for some period while *Paramaatma Saakshaatkaaram* confers *moksham* or eternal bliss. **Venkat Desikan, Chennai**



TWEETS
OF THE
DAY



Manish Tewari @ManishTewari
I am reliably informed that there's a proposal to increase Lok Sabha strength to 1000 or more before 24. Before this is done, there should be discourse.



Piyush Goyal @PiyushGoyal
India's golden hour. Priya Mali wins gold at the World Cadet Wrestling Championship in Budapest, Hungary. More glory to girl power.



Mamata Banerjee @MamataOfficial
Deeply pained by the tragic incident in Maharashtra. The situation owing to heavy rainfall is alarming. Praying for everyone's safety and security.

Parl stand-off: Washout fear looms large as govt, oppn refuse to budge

Approached by Centre, Lok Sabha Speaker faces onerous task of bringing Opposition to table

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

WITH the Centre requesting him to convene an all-party meeting, the task is cut out for Speaker **Om Birla** to prevent a washout of the Moonsoon session in the Lok Sabha.

For the government, the stalemate is due to the race between the Congress and the Trinamool Congress to take credit for the Parliamentary disruptions. "There's complete confusion in the Congress leadership. The Opposition had agreed for discussion on Covid in the Lok Sabha, but backed off later," Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Meghwal told this newspaper.

The Opposition's stiff conditions — the presence of PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah and a reply on the discussion by either of them on the Pegasus row — for resolution of the Parliament logjam wasn't agreeable to the government, indicated Meghwal. "This has never been the norm. Reply is always given by the minister concerned, and conditional discussions don't take place."

The Lok Sabha witnessing complete breakdown of communications between the treasury and the Opposition benches is worrying other parties. "My anxiety is that important bills may be passed in din in the House, which will be more disastrous for the democracy," BJD's senior leader Bhartruhari Mahtab said, stressing that both sides will need to move forward to arrive at some solutions. He also noted that while the Rajya Sabha took up discussion on Covid, the Lok



Didi in Delhi, TMC looks to up the ante

What makes the Lok Sabha Speaker's task challenging is that the Trinamool Congress is bracing to go more belligerent in the presence of its newly appointed Parliamentary chairperson Mamata Banerjee in Delhi.

Sabha, too, should take up public interest issues.

But, Congress chief whip in Lok Sabha K Suresh asserted the government has made no effort to reach out to the Opposition. "It is not the Speaker, but the government that doesn't want discussion on Pegasus."

But Union Minister Bhupender Yadav contended that the Opposition has shown least respect for the conventions. "The Opposition has struck disruptive stance since the beginning by not even allowing the PM to introduce new members of the Council of Ministers."

"It was previously agreed that the Lok Sabha will take up three short duration discussions, and calling attentions each and allow taking up important legislation," said Meghwal. (With inputs from Richa Sharma)

Rajya Sabha MP moves SC for snooping probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CPI (M) Rajya Sabha MP **John Brittas** moved the Supreme Court seeking a court-monitored investigation in the alleged Pegasus snooping case.

Brittas, in his public interest litigation (PIL), has said that despite the "very serious nature of the allegations," the Union government has not launched a probe but "made only a hopeful hope that the time-tested processes in our country are well-established to ensure that unauthorised surveillance does not occur."

The CPI (M) lawmaker said that the government has neither denied nor admitted the snooping by the spyware. He has also said that the allegations lead to two inferences — either snooping was done by the Indian government or by a foreign agency.

Brittas expressed concern that the list of those who were

potential targets in India includes opposition politicians, journalists, a former Election Commissioner, and the staffer of the former SC judge accused of sexual harassment.

"As the interceptions are said to be done in the gadgets of judges and Supreme Court staffer, there is a strong interference with the administration of justice. This is unprecedented and shocking to the conscience of the judicial system. The aspect of interception in the phones of former EC member shows that fundamentals of democracy and free and fair elections are also shaken," he said.

The MP from Kerala claimed that if Pegasus spyware was used in an unauthorised manner, that is in violation of fundamental rights under Articles 19(1)(a) and 21 and also as a slap on the face of the right to privacy upheld by the Court in the (2017) Puttaswamy case.



PEGASUS CHARGES ARE BASELESS: NADDA

BJP president J P Nadra on Sunday termed as 'baseless' the Pegasus snooping allegations, and hit out at the opposition parties saying that there was no issue left with them. "It is baseless. It is useless. The opposition parties led by the Congress do not have any issue which they want to raise for people. That is why they raise this kind of issue," the BJP chief told reporters at the end of his two-day Goa visit.

Trinamool, Congress close ranks to fight Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

A new equation between the Trinamool Congress and the Congress appears to have emerged in West Bengal with the two parties coming closer on the snooping row.

A day before TMC chairperson Mamata Banerjee's visit to Delhi and her plan to meet the opposition leaders, party's national spokesperson Derek O'Brien shared Congress's

tweet displaying party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee as a victim of Pegasus spyware snooping. Congress's Bengal vice-president Diptiman Ghosh said the party has already extended its hand to the TMC.

O'Brien retweeted Congress' tweet which said, 'PM Modi took the adage, 'keep your enemies closer' a little too far.

#PegasusSnoopinggate'

Displaying Abhishek's photo, the Congress tweet said, 'Aap chronology samajhiye. Target of Pegasus spyware.

Who? Abhishek Banerjee-nephew of Mamata Banerjee. When? 2021. Why? West Bengal elections. Modi Govt's insecurities are endless."

The word "chronology" was used frequently by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to elaborate

the implementation of contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens.

TMC leaders admitted that the party's political stance has changed after the poll victory in Bengal and Mamata's emergence as a major anti-BJP leader. "She is now eyeing the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. She is gearing up for taking the TMC into the arena of national politics," said a TMC leader.

COVID TRACKER

1.34%
NATIONAL FATALITY RATE

2.31%
NATIONAL POSITIVITY RATE

97.36%
NATIONAL RECOVERY RATE

4,08,212
Active cases

765
Fall in active cases

17,18,756
Tests on Saturday

51,18,210
Jab on Saturday

Source: Union Health Ministry

GOA EXTENDS CURFEW TILL AUG 2

Panaji: The Goa government on Sunday extended the coronavirus-induced curfew in the state till August 2. The curfew, which was first imposed on May 9, has since been extended from time to time considering the number of infections. "The curfew order will be extended up to 2nd August," an order said.

Only 71K migrants workers given skill training post-Covid



Over 1.08 crore migrant workers returned homes after last year's lockdown | FILE

KUMAR VIKRAM @ New Delhi

ONLY about 71,000 migrant workers have been provided skill training under a central government initiative, announced in the wake of the migrant crisis last year.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) had targeted training 3 lakh migrant workers from 116 districts identified across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Odisha, MP and Jharkhand.

According to government data, over 1.08 crore migrant workers had returned to their home states when the first Covid-mandated lockdown was announced in March 2020. These migrants mainly belonged to six states, with Uttar Pradesh receiving over 32 lakh migrant

STATE	Trained	Assessed
Assam	714	494
Bihar	31,619	28,334
Madhya Pradesh	10,598	6,628
Odisha	1,690	1,223
Rajasthan	12,478	11,227
Uttar Pradesh	13,724	11,972
Total	70,823	59,888

workers followed by Bihar, which saw over 15 lakh migrant workers return home.

The latest data from the skill development ministry discloses that only 70,823 migrants were trained and 59,888 were assessed in the six states till July 10 this year. Bihar topped the list with the skill-training of 31,619 workers. Uttar Pradesh stood a distant second, training 13,724 migrants. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and

Assam completed the skill training of 12,478, 10,598, 1690 and 714 migrant workers.

Guided by the Centre's Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan, skill-mapping of migrant labour was done to enhance their employability on the basis of skills they possessed to enable them to work closer to their homes.

A targeted skilling programme was planned under MSDE in the 116 districts that were found to have a high concentration of unskilled or semi-skilled migrant workers.

In collaboration with the district authorities concerned, the ministry rolled out the programme for skill training within 125 days during November last year. District skill committees were entrusted with mobilising candidates, identifying

their aspirations and facilitating batch creation based on local job opportunities. Officials said five job roles were identified, including mason, self-employed tailor, sewing machine operator, assistant electrician and organic grower.

Besides, six nodal officers were appointed to handhold, monitor and facilitate the district administration. Virtual training meetings were also held with state's principle secretaries and collectors.

A parliamentary standing committee noted that in its endeavour to impart skill training, the ministry is facing a number of challenges. It asked the ministry to look into the issues that impede the smooth skill training and take corrective measures.

EXPRESS READ

Ministry asks states to identify Covid-hit kids

New Delhi: The Women and Child Development Ministry has requested states and UTs to direct district magistrates to identify the children who have lost their parents to the COVID-19 pandemic for receiving support under PM CARES for Children scheme. The details are to be submitted on a portal "pmcaresforchildren.in" established to enable assistance. In June, the NCPCR informed the apex court that as many as 30,071 children were orphaned, lost a parent or abandoned mostly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, citing data submitted by different states.

Delta variant was prevalent during Mahakumbh: Lab findings

Dehradun: The Delta variant was reported active in Uttarakhand as revealed by the genome sequencing reports of April and May. The Mahakumbh festival was going on in Haridwar at the time when the second wave kicked off. State Health department said that most patients have recovered from the infection. "Many people infected with the delta variant have recovered. We plan to keep track of the virus through genome sequencing," said an official. Out of the total 130 samples sent for sequencing, 56 were found with Delta variant while six with beta variant. With one patient found infected with Delta plus variant, the officials are vigilant about the variant. "We are extra vigilant about the new variants of the virus. Soon, every sample from the high case load areas will be sent for genome sequencing. This will help us keep track and fight the pandemic better," District surveillance officer of Dehradun, Dr Rajiv Dixit said. The Mahakumbh was marked as the 'Super Spreader' as the number of active cases spiked from March 31 to April 30, 2021. Prior to the mega religious event total number of active cases in the state stood at 1863 on March 31 and it reached 49492 at the end of the event.



GREENING INDIA

Home Minister Amit Shah oversees the launch of a plantation drive at Sohra in Meghalaya | PTI

Shah credited PM Narendra Modi with solving the myriad problems of the Northeast, thereby restoring peace in the region.

While 2,100 militants have laid down arms, he said, the peace agreement with Karbi insurgents in Assam will be signed soon.

The Central government has solved the issue of displaced Brus and Bodo insurgency, Shah asserted.

5 more friction points set to make 12th round of LAC talks tough

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE 12th round of Indian and Chinese Corps Commanders talks are planned within a fortnight, but not much progress on eastern Ladakh disengagement is expected in view of differing approach of the two sides on troops' withdrawal from the standoff points.

"While China is pressing to de-escalate and then disengage, the Indian Army has made it clear that unless People's Liberation Army move back to the pre-May 5, 2020 positions, India will not move its troops back," said an official.

The Chinese want India to move out all its soldiers deployed after the May 5, 2020 standoff, which began with the clashes at Finger 4 on the north bank of Pangong lake and later spread to multiple points, including Hot Spring, Gogra, Galwan and Depsang.

An addition worry this time is that the on-ground friction points have increased, with the two sides have differing claims on five more areas.

On the positive side, communications have remained open and some headway on Gogra and Hot Spring may be



Senior army officers at an armed force's event at Lamoche in Ladakh | PTI

possible when the Core Commanders meet. "There are good chances that the two sides agree to disengage from Gogra and Hot Spring," said an official.

There are now a total of 17 friction points along the 832-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. "Amid the standoff, there is an increase of five friction points which include area around 120 km in Galwan, PP 15 and PP 17A at Shoksha La on the north of Pangong Tso and Rechin La and Rezang La on the south of Pangong Tso," said the official.

Before May 5, 2020, there were two 'mutually agreed dis-

puted areas' (Trig Heights and Demchok) and 10 'areas of differing perceptions' (Samar Lungpa, Depsang Bulge, Areas east of Pt 6556, Charding Nul-la crossing, Kongka La, Pangong Tso, Spanggur, Mt Sajjum, Dumchele and Chumar).

India is also treading with caution because of the trust deficit. China has been furiously building permanent structures on its side of the LAC even as it remains engaged in talks with India. "It reflects their intention," said an official. India has also been sprucing up its all-round logistics chains and associated military infrastructure.

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	29	25	Mumbai	29	26
Bhopal	27	23	Panaji	31	25
Jaipur	33	26	Patna	34	27
Amritsar	32	28	Lucknow	34	27
Chennai	32	28	Port Blair	29	25
Kolkata	33	28	Imphal	30	22
Srinagar	32	22	Chandigarh	30	27

Warning signs of impending landslide ignored

Large quantum of muddy water had started flowing down the hills, which should have alerted the villagers

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

RESIDENTS of Taliye village in Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra, may have ignored a warning from nature that a landslide was imminent, leading to deaths of 49 people, with 47 still missing.

The locals said that on Thursday there was heavy rain and large quantum of muddy water started flowing down from the hilly areas. "This was the sign of danger. It means that something has happened on the hilly side, therefore muddy water with a lot of debris has been flowing towards their hamlet," said Sachin Haralkar, a photographer.

The landslide struck Pandey Wadi, a small hamlet of 35 houses located at the foothills of the Sahyadri ranges. Villages in Konkan are clusters of such small hamlets.

"Some of the residents of Pandey Wadi screamed and warned all that something wrong has happened and they need to run away to a safe place to save themselves," Haralkar



NDRF personnel conduct rescue operations at the site of a landslide at Kumbharwadi village in Maharashtra's Chiplun | AFP

said. Many villagers took to foot after the heavy rainfall on Thursday evening. "But other people thought nothing will happen and they remained in their houses. They were confused and did not anticipate such large-scale devastation taking their lives. Then, one

after another, parts of the hill started sliding down, bulldozing the kaccha houses of Pandey Wadi. Many people got trapped inside the debris while some of them were washed away in the heavy flow of water. Therefore, rescue teams such as those from NDRF and

local authorities are not yet able to find the missing people," Haralkar added.

Vijay Pandey, one of the Pandey Wadi residents, lost his seven-month-old son, two-year-old daughter, wife and parents. Pandey himself could run away, but he was unable to get

his entire family out of there, because in the unceasing heavy rain they did not want to go out. They did not imagine that such a tragedy can happen within a few minutes and destroy their lives.

Aditi Tatkare, Guardian minister of the Raigad district, said that the many houses were washed away in the landslide and the heavy flood, making it difficult to trace the bodies. She said the entire area is very muddy and that several layers of mud have to be removed to reach the original site of Pandey Wadi.

The local Sarpanch, Sampati Prakash Chandrakar, said that the government authorities were very late in reaching the location very late. "There was a communications issue. We called several people but no help reached on time. The layer of mud and debris become solid and that cannot be removed manually or easily. After 48 hours of the landslide, the JCB and other machinery came to remove the debris now," Chandrakar said.

Man spends 7 hours on top of bus guarding govt money amid rain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mumbai

Manager of Chiplun bus depot in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district spent almost seven hours on top of a bus with the daily transport revenue of nine lakh rupees as rains flooded the depot.

Ranjeet Raje Shirke decided to climb to the top of the bus as it was the only location that was not submerged.

"The water level was increasing every minute. If the cash was kept in the office, there were chances of it getting soaked and being washed away I would have been held responsible. It was my prime duty to protect the cash with-

out thinking about my life," Shirke said. He said that there were other employees who were also camped on top of buses. Once the floodwater started to recede, they called the Ratnagiri divisional office of Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation and the local police stations to brief about the situation.

Later they moved to another safe place and deposited the cash. "It was a tough time, we were the custodians of the government cash and the floodwater was rising," said Shirke. He added that he never thought that a day would come where he would be forced to spend hours on the bus rooftop.

State to set up new force to tackle disaster

Amid the rain havoc in parts of Maharashtra, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday said a separate force on the lines of the national Disaster Relief Force will be set up in all districts of the state

BJP to field all senior leaders in 2022 UP poll

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Lucknow

A few hours before Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath touched down in Ayodhya on Sunday, the BJP's first-time MLA from Ayodhya Ved Prakash Gupta said he would be the "happiest man" if the CM opted to contest from the same seat in 2022 Assembly polls.

Gupta's statement came amid reports that the BJP is planning to field all its senior leaders in the 2022 Assembly polls.

However, it remains to be seen whether or not the party will actually field Adityanath from the Ayodhya seat. Recently, the BJP finished second to Samajwadi Party in the district panchayat members' polls in Ayodhya. However, it managed to win the district panchayat chairperson's polls in the same district. The present two-time BJP MP from Faizabad seat Lalul Singh had won the Ayodhya Assembly seat five times between 1991 and 2007, before SP's Pawan alias Tej Narayan

Pandey snatched the seat in 2012 polls.

However, five years later, in 2017 polls, Ved Prakash Gupta wrested the seat for the saffron party by defeating Pandey (the ex-minister) by more than 50,000 votes.

According to informed sources within the BJP in Lucknow, the party plans to field all its top leaders in the Vidhan Sabha polls this time.



But, instead of Ayodhya, the CM could actually contest from one of the seats in his home district of Gorakhpur (as he has immense sway in that region of the state up to the Nepal border).

Among the other top state BJP leaders, Keshav Prasad Maurya could be fielded from Sirathu Kaushambi district and Dinesh Sharma from any seat of Lucknow. Senior cabinet minister Dr Mahendra Singh could also be fielded from his home district Pratapgarh, possibly from Kunda seat, which has been a virtual fiefdom of ex-UP minister Raghuraj Pratap Singh who has won the seat six times.

Raj mess: Cabinet slots up for grabs

RAJESH HASNANI @ Jaipur

HOPING to resolve the rift in the Rajasthan party unity after forcing a solution in Punjab, Congress general secretaries K C Venugopal and Ajay Maken on Sunday indicated a cabinet reshuffle and a clutch of political appointments would be made soon to address the demands of all factions.

Both held a meeting with PCC president Govind Singh Dotasra and several state min-

isters, MLAs and office bearers at the party office here. The meeting happened in the presence of rebel leader and former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot and his group of MLAs. A large group of Pilot's supporters shouted slogans outside the PCC office while the meeting was on. As they grew more vociferous, Pilot had to send some leaders from his own group to persuade them to pipe down. Earlier in the day, Venugopal and Maken

called on Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and reportedly discussed the rejig.

True to the party's culture, all leaders left the decision on the reshuffle to the high command. "We're discussing the cabinet expansion, appointment of district and block-level chiefs of Congress and appointments in boards and corporations with our leaders," Maken later shared. Maken, the AICC general secretary in charge for Rajasthan, however,

did not have a date for the cabinet expansion. He will be back in Jaipur on July 28 and 29 for one-on-one meetings with all MLAs. The state cabinet can have a maximum of 30 ministers. It currently has 21, including the CM. The Rajasthan impasse has been on ever since Pilot, along with 18 MLAs, rebelled against Gehlot last July. Though Pilot came back to the party after Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's intervention, his demands have not been met.



President Kovind arrives in Srinagar for four-day visit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

PRESIDENT Ram Nath Kovind arrived in Srinagar on a four-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Sunday.

The President landed at Srinagar airport at 11.15 am and was received by J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and top civil and police officials.

The President will visit Kargil on Monday to pay homage to the soldiers killed in the 1999 war with Pakistan. He will visit the Kargil War Memorial Drass in Ladakh on the 22nd Anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas and pay floral tributes to the slain soldiers.

On Tuesday, the President would address the 19th annual convocation of the University of Kashmir in Srinagar.

During his stay in the city, he would be briefed about the political and security situation in Jammu and Kashmir by Lieutenant Governor and senior officials.

In view of the President's visit, security arrangements were beefed up in Kashmir, especially in Srinagar. Temporary check points were erected in many areas and vehicles were thoroughly searched.

Meanwhile, the National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday pitched for sustained and result-oriented dialogue between India and Pakistan and stressed that dialogue should lead to J&K-specific Confidence Building Measures.

EXPRESS READ

Over a third of schools still lack tap water

Tap water connections have been made available in 66% schools, 60% anganwadi centres and 69% gram panchayats and CHC in villages across India, the Jal Shakti Ministry said on Sunday. On October 2 last year, a 100-day campaign was launched to make provision of tap water supply in schools, anganwadi centres and CHCs. In Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, clean water supply is available in all schools, ashramshalas and anganwadi centres, the ministry said.

PM calls on citizens to put nation first

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi in his monthly *Mann Ki Baat* programme asked citizens to sing the national anthem together on 75th Independence Day and adopt a 'Nation First, Always First' mantra.

"On the 15th of August, this is an endeavour connected with the National Anthem. It's an effort on [the] part of the ministry of culture to have a maximum number of Indians sing the national anthem together. I hope you connect

yourself with this novel initiative," the Prime Minister said. He called on every citizen to lead a 'Bharat Jodo Andolan' in the same manner as Mahatma Gandhi had led the 'Bharat Chhoro Andolan'.

He urged every citizen to buy Khadi products and contribute towards a 'Bharat Jodo

Andolan'. Modi on Sunday reminded people of coronavirus and urged them to follow all Covid-related protocols. "During festivals and gaiety, do remember that corona is not yet gone from amidst us. You don't have to forget corona-related protocols," he said.

The PM began the radio address with best wishes to the Indian contingent participating in the Tokyo Olympics and urged all the citizens to support the team through the Victory Punch Campaign. "You also share your victory punch along with your team and cheer for India," he added.

Every Indian must lead the 'Bharat Jodo Andolan (Unite India Movement)'. It is our responsibility that we do our work in such a manner that it helps in uniting our country

Narendra Modi

BJP calls plot to topple Jharkhand govt 'fishy', demands probe by SIT

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

TERMING an alleged plot to topple the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led government in Jharkhand as "fishy", leader of the state's BJP legislative party Babul Marandi on Sunday demanded a probe into the matter by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by a sitting High Court judge.

Talking to the media, Marandi also questioned the role of Jharkhand Police as it has not released any details of the case though three accused have been booked under the sedition law.

"The BJP demands immediate release of the three people arrested in the case. We also demand an impartial probe into the whole episode by forming a SIT headed by a sitting High Court judge to get into the details of the matter," said Marandi. He added that the party will not rest till a probe by an SIT is ordered, as being in the opposition, it is also their responsibility to protect the rights of the people of Jharkhand, he added.

LADO PANCHAYAT

Call to raise marriage age to 21 in girls' panchayat

HARPREET BAIWA @ Chandigarh

FOR the first time, Lado Panchayats—an assembly of girls from villages—are being held in India in Haryana.

On July 18, the first online Lado Panchayat was held, in which 90 girls from Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh participated.

Over the last five days, seven offline sessions of the panchayat were held in various parts of Haryana, including Hisar, Jind, Gurugram and Mewat. In each

of them 25 to 30 girls have participated. Demands raised so far include, raising marriage age of girls from 18 to 21 years and that a minimum educational qualification be fixed for girls before they can marry.

On Sunday, a much larger session was held, in which 135

girls, including two from the UK, one from Canada, a doctor and a sociologist, participated. During the session, girls demanded that laws be amended to give them freedom.

"In our village, girls are getting married at a very young age, and thus, they hardly know

anything about marriage, and most of them, have not even completed their studies. If the government raises the marriage age to 21 years for girls, there should also be a minimum qualification to be attained before girls can marry," said Anjali from Bihar.

"We are not able to complete our studies as our families get our marriages fixed," said Priyanka from Bhiwani in Haryana said.

The Lado Panchayats are being organised by Selfie with Daughter Foundation.

Report to be submitted to PM

Fifteen Lado panchayats will be held. Then, a detailed and comprehensive report with video recordings will be submitted to the Prime Minister's Office and the Union Ministry of Women and Child Welfare highlighting the demands raised



Clay model of PM, a big hit among students

A young artist from Bihar's Muzaffarpur has been making clay models of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The clay models allow one to deposit money like a piggy bank. Thirty-two-year-old sculptor Jay Prakash has been making the clay models known as Modi-Gullak bank since March last year. It has huge demand among school and college children. So far, about 350 pieces have been sold in Muzaffarpur. The models are two-foot-tall, and inside, there's space to hold coins and currency notes worth ₹50,000. They are being sold at ₹800.



RAJESH K THAKUR
Our correspondent
in Bihar
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PATNA DIARY

Bihar gets 350 new ambulances, 50 CNG buses

In a move to ensure that those living in rural areas have access to ambulance services, chief minister Nitish Kumar flagged off 350 hi-tech ambulances with life support systems to be used in different districts of the state. He flagged off the ambulances under the Chief Minister Village Transport Scheme claiming that the state is ready to save both human lives and ensure eco-friendly and safe travel in a pollution-free environment in Patna and other parts of the state. The Chief Minister had launched 50 CNG buses for Patna recently. The ambulances have been sent to different districts with four staff for each of them. Secretary of the transport department, Sanjay Kumar Aggarwal, said, with the latest addition, a total of 70 CNG buses are on the roads.

22% children malnourished

Bihar's health minister Mangal Pandey said around 22.09 per cent of children aged five are 'malnourished' in the state. "Of this 22.09%, nearly 8.8% are in a very serious stage of malnourishment and need medical attention. The state government is making all necessary arrangements to ensure that they get proper care at the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres," Pandey said. He said a provision should be created in the state budget to ensure the mental and physical well-being of such children.



Robots to operate on brain tumour at AIIMS, Patna

The AIIMS Patna recently installed a 4K Microscope with robotic endo-arm and Neuronavigation (steal station S8 system) to help doctors during surgeries of brain tumor patients. The technology is will give the institute an edge in neurosurgery. It will allow doctors to carry out, deep brain tumor resection and skull-based surgery with high precision and minimal invasion. Post-surgery, patients can be discharged within a week. Those needing surgeries to remove brain tumors will no longer have to go to other states

PM: Iraq doesn't need US combat troops to fight IS

Says govt wants US to support Iraq's forces in training and developing their efficiency

BAGHDAD

IRAQ'S prime minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi has said his country no longer requires American combat troops to fight the Islamic State (IS), but a formal time frame for their redeployment will depend on the outcome of talks with US officials this week. He said Iraq will still ask for US training and military intelligence gathering. His comments came ahead of a planned trip to Washington, where he's slated to meet President Joe Biden on Monday for a fourth round of strategic talks.

"There is no need for any foreign combat forces on Iraqi soil," said al-Kadhimi, falling short of announcing a deadline for a US troop departure. Iraq's security forces and army are capable of defending the country without US-led coalition troops, he said.

But al-Kadhimi said any withdrawal schedule would be based on the needs of Iraqi forces, who have shown themselves capable in the last year of conducting independent anti-IS missions.

"The war against IS and the readiness of our forces requires a special timetable, and this depends on the negotiations that we will conduct in Washington," he said. The US and Iraq agreed in April that the US transition to a train-and-advise mission meant the US combat role would end but they didn't settle on a timetable for completing that transition.

In Monday's meeting at the White House, the two leaders are expected to specify a timeline, possibly by the end of this year.

The US troop presence has stood at about 2,500 since late last year when former President Donald Trump ordered a reduction from 3,000.

The US mission of training and advising Iraqi forces has its most recent origins in former President Barack Obama's decision in 2014 to send troops back to Iraq. The move was made in response to the IS' takeover of large portions of western and northern Iraq and a collapse of Iraqi security forces that appeared to threaten Baghdad. Obama had fully withdrawn US forces from Iraq in 2011, eight years after the US invasion.

"What we want from the US presence in Iraq is to support our forces in training and developing their efficiency, and in security cooperation," al-Kadhimi said. The Washington trip comes as the premier's administration has faced one setback after another, seriously undermining public confidence.

Ongoing missile attacks by militia groups have underscored the limits of the state to prevent them and a series of devastating hospital fires amid soaring coronavirus cases have left dozens dead.

Chief on the agenda in Washington, however, is the future of American-led coalition forces in Iraq.



The war against IS and the readiness of our forces requires a special timetable, and this depends on the negotiations that we will conduct in Washington

Mustafa al-Kadhimi, Iraq PM

California's largest fire torches homes as flames lash west



A home burns as flames from the Dixie fire tear through the Indian Falls neighbourhood of unincorporated Plumas County in California | Pics: AFP

BLAZE RAVAGES ITALIAN ISLAND OF SARDINIA

Milan: Fire raged on Sunday on the Italian island of Sardinia, where nearly 400 people were evacuated overnight. No deaths or injuries have been reported. Firefighters said several homes were damaged. Authorities said a preliminary survey indicates 10,000 acres have been consumed by flames around Montiferru. Authorities evacuated 200 people from the town of Cuglieri overnight and another 155 from Sennariolo, where flames still had not reached residential areas. AP

BLY (US)

FLAMES racing through rugged terrain in Northern California destroyed multiple homes on Saturday as the state's largest wildfire intensified and numerous other blazes battered the US West.

The Dixie fire, which started July 14, had already levelled over a dozen houses and other structures when it tore through the town of Indian Falls. It was burning in a remote area with limited access, hampering firefighters' efforts as it advanced eastward, fire officials said.

The blaze has charred more than 181,000 acres in Plumas and Butte counties and prompted evacuation orders in several small communities and along the west shore of Lake Alman. The fire was 20% contained as of Saturday night.

Meanwhile, the nation's largest wildfire, southern Oregon's



A Corvette explodes in the fire

Bootleg fire, was nearly half-way surrounded on Saturday as more than 2,200 crew members worked to corral it in the heat and wind.

The growth of the sprawling blaze had slowed, but thousands of homes remained threatened on its eastern side, authorities said.

In California, Governor Gavin Newsom has declared a state of emergency for four northern counties because of wildfires that he said were causing conditions of extreme

peril to the safety of persons and property. The proclamation opened the way for more state support. Such conditions are often from a combination of unusual random, short-term and natural weather patterns heightened by long-term, human-caused climate change. Global warming has made the West much warmer and drier in the past 30 years.

On Saturday, fire crews from California and Utah headed to Montana, Gov. Greg Gianforte announced. Five firefighters were injured Thursday when swirling winds blew flames back on them as they worked on the Devil's Creek fire burning in rough, steep terrain near the rural town of Jordan, in the northeast part of the state. They remained hospitalized on Friday. Three of the firefighters are US Fish and Wildlife Service crew members from North Dakota. AP

PAKISTAN

Violence mars PoK legislative elections

Islamabad: Voters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir cast their ballots on Sunday to elect the region's legislative assembly, in an election marred by allegations of irregularities and violence that killed at least two workers of PM Imran Khan's party. The gates of polling stations were closed to new voters at 5pm. However, those inside were allowed to vote. The polling started at 8am and continued till 5pm. India has previously slammed Pakistan for its decision to hold elections in Gilgit-Baltistan and said any action to alter the status of the militarily occupied region has no legal basis. The assembly has a total of 53 members but only 45 are directly elected, while five are reserved for women and three are meant for the technocrats. PTI

ASIA MATTERS



Covid cases touch new daily high of 17,045

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia has reported a new daily high of 17,045 infections, pushing the country's total confirmed cases above the 1 million mark. Daily cases in Malaysia rose above 10,000 on July 13 and have stayed there despite a national lockdown. The health ministry said Sunday that total infections have now reached 1,013,438. The country's richest and most populated state Selangor and neighboring Kuala Lumpur accounted for the majority of infections. AP

SINGAPORE

PM assures elderly of vaccine safety

Singapore: Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has assured Singapore's senior citizens that the Covid vaccines are safe and urged them to get the doses, even as the city-state recorded its 37th coronavirus-linked fatality on Sunday. An unvaccinated 83-year old woman is the latest Covid fatality here. She developed a fever and cough on June 16 but did not seek medical attention until she was taken to National University Hospital on June 18, where she tested positive for COVID-19 the next day, the Ministry of Health (MOH) said in a statement. In a video on social media, Lee said, "Don't wait till it's too late. Most people your age are already vaccinated, including many of your friends and neighbours. Protect yourself, and your family too." PTI

In-Fa drenches China



A man lies on a sofa in a flooded hotel lobby in Ningbo as Typhoon In-Fa lashes China's eastern coast | AFP

NINGBO

TYPHOON In-Fa uprooted trees and drenched communities in knee-deep water in parts of eastern China, but there were no reports of major damage as it made landfall on Sunday.

Sea, air and rail traffic had been shut down across a swathe of the coast centered on the major shipping port of Ningbo, where the weakening typhoon rumbled ashore around midday packing winds of up to 38 metres per second, according to the China Meteorological Administration.

Response teams in Ningbo cleared away fallen trees in the city centre, while residents in some neighbourhoods waded through floodwaters and merchants piled up sandbags in front of their businesses to keep out water.

The typhoon hit as the central province of Henan was still cleaning up after torrential downpours dumped a year's worth of rain in just three days last week.

Government officials on Sunday added another five dead to the toll from the freak flooding in Henan, raising the total to 63. AFP

EXPRESS READ

Israeli airlines launch first flights to Morocco

Jerusalem: Two Israeli airlines launched their first commercial flights between Israel and Morocco on Sunday. Israel's flight departed Tel Aviv for Marrakech with around 100 Israeli tourists, the company said, hours before Israeli national carrier El Al dispatched its first direct flight to the same destination. Israeli Tourism Minister Yoel Razvozov said the flights would help advance fruitful tourism, trade and economic cooperation and diplomatic agreements between the two countries. AP



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy Admiral Nikolai Yevmenov arrive to attend the Navy Day parade on Sunday | AP/PTI

Russian navy capable of lethal strikes: Putin

SAINT PETERSBURG

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin on Sunday said Russia's navy was capable of delivering lethal strikes against underwater and aerial enemy targets, during a parade of warships in Saint Petersburg.

Putin's boast comes days after military officials announced tests of advanced new weapons, some of which come from an arsenal Putin has described as "invincible." "The Russian navy today has everything it needs to guarantee the protection of our country and our national interests," he said. "We can detect underwater, surface or aerial enemies and target them if a lethal strike is necessary," Putin said. He was speaking on the sidelines of an annual parade of military vessels.

Putin said Russia had secured its place among the world's leading naval powers, including by developing "the latest hypersonic precision weapons."

LONDON

SIXTY-FOUR per cent of female veterans and 58 per cent of currently serving women reported experiencing bullying, harassment and discrimination (BHD) during their careers in UK military, according to a new parliamentary report put out on Sunday.

The House of Commons Defence Sub-Committee on Women in the Armed Forces, in its report entitled 'Protecting Those

Who Protect Us: Women in the Armed Forces from Recruitment to Civilian Life', said that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and military services are 'failing to protect female personnel and to help servicewomen achieve their full potential'.

While most servicewomen and female veterans that were consulted for the report would recommend the Armed Forces as a career, more than 3,000 (around 84 per cent) reported that female personnel face

people will have to reduce their contacts, Braun said. "That could mean that visiting places like restaurants, cinemas and stadiums would no longer be possible even for tested unvaccinated people because the risk is too high," he said.

The country has a duty to protect people's health, Braun said. "This includes a health service that does not have to postpone can-



cer and joint operations again in winter to treat Covid patients." Germany has seen low infection numbers over the summer compared to many of its European neighbours, but cases have been creeping up over the past two weeks, largely fuelled by the Delta variant.

Merkel last week said she was concerned about the "clear and worrying dynamic"

If infection rates continue to rise, unvaccinated people will have to reduce their contacts. That could mean that visiting places like restaurants, cinemas and stadiums would no longer be possible even for tested unvaccinated people because the risk is too high

Helge Braun, Chancellor Angela Merkel's chief of staff

French Prez Macron calls Israeli PM Bennett on allegations of snooping

JERUSALEM

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron has spoken to Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on reports that Morocco's security forces may have used the Pegasus spyware to snoop on his cellphones.

A global media consortium last week reported that 50,000 cellphone numbers were being spied on using the Pegasus malware, which has been developed by Israeli cybersecu-



rency company NSO Group. The mobile phones of Macron and 15 members of his government may have been among potential targets, according to a member of the media consortium. Macron telephoned Bennett recently and asked him to en-

sure that "the issue was being taken seriously." Bennett said the allegations are from a period when he had not assumed office but assured that the required conclusions on the matter will be reached upon.

Macron had called an urgent national security meeting recently to discuss the spyware after reports about its misuse in France emerged. The Moroccan government has denied reports that its security forces used the spyware to eavesdrop on Macron. PTI

10 killed, 45 hurt as bus swerves off road in Croatia

ZAGREB

A BUS swerved off a highway and crashed in Croatia early on Sunday, killing 10 people and injuring at least 45 others, police said. The crash happened near the town of Slavonski Brod on the highway between the capital, Zagreb, and the Serbian border.

Police said the bus had Kosovo license plates and was on a regular route from Germany to Kosovo capital Pristina, which is located south of Serbia. The cause of the crash wasn't immediately known.

Local police chief Franjo Galic said the bus was full, with more than 60 people on board. He described the crash as one of the worst accidents he had ever seen. The injured were transferred to the hospital in Slavonski Brod. Hospital chief Josip Samardzic said eight people had serious injuries.

It wasn't clear whether there were any children on the bus. Croatian PM Andrej Plenkovic expressed sadness and grief and extended his condolences to the relatives of the people who died in the crash and the people of Kosovo. AP



STATE BANK OF INDIA
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Ph: 080-22114022/22114021, Email: sbl.40690@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
Under Rule - 8 (1) (For Immovable Property)

WHEREAS, Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the State Bank of India, Retail Assets Central Processing Centre, Bengaluru, under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 8 And 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice Dated 16/04/2021 calling upon the borrower 1) Smt. B.R.Rani W/o Late C G Venkatesh, No.57, "Srinidhi" 2nd Main Road, NAL Layout, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Carmel Convent School, Bangalore-560041, Mob No: 9986674587, Land No: 08022447891, 2) Smt. B.R.Rani W/o Late C G Venkatesh, LIC OF INDIA Jayanagar Branch, Jeevan Soudha, 3rd Floor, 24th Main Road, J.P.Nagar, 1st Phase, Opposite to Shanthi Sagar Hotel, Bangalore-560041, Mob No: 9986674587, 3) Smt. B.R.Rani W/o Late C G Venkatesh, No.4, Municipal No.4/2, 1st Main Road, Suddaguntapalya, Bangalore-560029, Mob No: 9986674587, 4) Sri. Prasad Reddy C V S/o Late C G Venkatesh, R V Consultant No.57, "Srinidhi" 2nd Main Road, NAL Layout, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Carmel Convent School, Bangalore-560041, Mob No: 9844317467, 5) Sri. Prasad Reddy C V S/o Late C G Venkatesh, No.4, Municipal No.4/2, 1st Main Road, Suddaguntapalya, Bangalore-560029, Mob No: 9844317467, 6) Sri. Mahindra Reddy C V S/o Late C G Venkatesh, R V Consultant, No.57, "Srinidhi" 2nd Main Road, NAL Layout, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Carmel Convent School, Bangalore-560041, Mob No: 9743054012, 7) Sri. Mahindra Reddy C V S/o Late C G Venkatesh, No.4, Municipal No.4/2, 1st Main Road, Suddaguntapalya, Bangalore-560029, Mob No: 9743054012, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being of Rs. 53,71,814/- (Rupees Fifty Three Lack Seventy One Thousand Eight Hundred Fourteen Only) as on 16/04/2021. Together with interest from 16/04/2021 at contractual rate within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-section 4 of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this day 20.07.2021.

The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is/are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of the State Bank of India Retail Assets Central Processing Centre Bengaluru, for an amount of Rs.53,71,814/- (Rupees Fifty Three Lack Seventy One Thousand Eight Hundred Fourteen Only) as on 16/04/2021. Together with interest from 16/04/2021 at contractual rate, & other expenses, cost, charges, etc. The Borrower/guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that piece and Parcel of the Vacant Property bearing No.4, Municipal New No.4/02, Suddaguntapalya, 1st Main Road Suddaguntapalya with Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Property Identification Number 63-98-4/02, measuring East to West: 54 feet and 6 inches and North to South: 39 feet, totally measuring 2129.4 Square feet with 4 Squares Old AC Roofing, Brick and Mud Walls, Doors and Windows are Made out of Jungle Wood, Mud Flooring, and Bounded By: East:- Road, West:- No.5 Property of Manoj Kumar and Prakash. North:- No.4/3 Property of R Shankar Reddy. South:- No.4/1 Property of Balakrishna.

Place: Bengaluru Sd/- Authorised Officer
Date: 20.07.2021 SBI, RACPC, Lalbagh, Bengaluru

Electric vehicles get cheaper every kilometer

Compared to their fossil fuel counterparts, EVs have far lower day-to-day running costs and servicing expenses

JONATHAN ANANDA @Chennai

ELECTRIC vehicles (EV) have been around for a while and have been a tantalising, but difficult, choice for prospective automobile customers ever since the first one hit the showrooms. Tantalising, because fuel prices have been on a steady upward trajectory since 2016; but difficult, since despite both Union and state government subsidies, the initial cost of electric vehicles have remained stubbornly, and significantly, higher than those of its fossil-fuel driven peers.

But the last year has not been a normal one as far as petrol and diesel prices go. Because an increase in fuel taxes by both the Union and state governments during the oil price crash last summer (April-May 2020) has resulted in fuel prices breaching the psychological ₹100 per litre barrier in several locations now that oil prices have recovered. Compared to costs in July 2020, petrol and diesel prices have risen by 26 per cent and 20 per cent.

So, has this sharp increase in fossil fuel prices made electric vehicles a more attractive option for prospective automobile customers? The broad answer is yes. But as with any cost comparison for automobiles, the key factor that determines cost efficiency is the amount of use you plan to get out of the vehicle.

Cost of ownership

As anyone who has ever owned a vehicle realises quite quickly, the total cost of ownership of a vehicle isn't simply limited to the number of kilometers it gives per litre of fuel or unit of electricity. Right off the bat, there're rather stringent insurance conditions which require

vehicle owners to mandatorily purchase insurance; there are both scheduled and non-scheduled service costs; and, not to mention, the cost of replacement parts in case of damage that is not covered by either warranty or insurance.

And these parameters do not stay the same over the duration of ownership either. In the case of fossil fuel vehicles, or internal combustion engine (ICE)-powered vehicles, service costs increase significantly over the years as the automobile gets older. The fuel efficiency or mileage—the number kilometers one can drive per litre of fuel—also tends to decrease. This means fossil fuel vehicles generally become less cost efficient as they get older.

But the question, of course, is how the current crop of electric vehicles do on these parameters.

EVs win marathons

One of the first things one needs to understand with electric vehicles is that in comparison with ICEs, their cost efficiency becomes comparatively better as time goes on.

Their primary problem, at least for four wheelers, is that the initial cost is often times nearly double that of comparable ICE vehicles. Take India's top selling electric car at this moment, the Tata Nexon EV. Its ex-showroom price is just under ₹14 lakh per unit, compared to around ₹5.8 lakh for the base version of the petrol Maruti Suzuki Swift and ₹10 lakh for the Hyundai Creta. The MG ZS EV, another popular electric car, is priced at over ₹23 lakh.

Electric two-wheelers, however, have become more affordable—at least in the low-speed category. The Hero Electric Atria LX, with a full charge



Charging infrastructure for Electric Vehicles has been improving steadily | EXPRESS

EV VS ICE: COST OF OWNERSHIP						
	Ex-showroom Chennai (in ₹)	Average 5-yr Insurance Cost (in ₹)	Average 5-yr service cost (in ₹)	Price per km (in ₹)	50,000 km fuel cost	1,00,000 km fuel cost
2-WHEELER						
INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE						
Honda Activa 6G	72,407	4,000	NA	1.9	95,000	190,000
Hero Splendor	63,820	4,250	NA	1.2	60,000	120,000
ELECTRIC VEHICLE						
Hero Electric Atria	63,640	7,000	NA	0.2	10,000	20,000
Ather 450X	141,000	9,000	NA	0.43	21,500	43,000
4-WHEELER						
INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE						
Maruti Suzuki Swift	581,000	19,000	23,500	4.8	240,000	480,000
Hyundai Creta	999,000	22,000	16,000	5.8	290,000	580,000
ELECTRIC VEHICLE						
Nexon EV	1,399,000	30,550	20,000	0.96	48,000	96,000
Hyundai Kona	2,371,858	51,000	6,000	0.8	40,000	80,000

ASSUMED PRICE/LITRE OF PETROL: ₹100 | PER UNIT OF POWER: ₹10

range of 75-80 km and a top speed of 25 kmph, costs around ₹63,000 ex-showroom. The far faster high-speed Ather 450x is priced at ₹1.41 lakh. In comparison, the latest variant of India's most popular scooter Honda Activa is priced at around ₹72,000 and the popular motorcycle Hero Splendor starts at a price of ₹63,800.

On the basis of the initial price alone, EVs do not yet beat ICEs. In fact, their insurance costs are also quite a bit higher than ICE vehicles, because ex-

pensive EV batteries form nearly 40 per cent of their total cost and insurance plans haven't reached the same kind of scale as for ICEs.

Where EVs do well is in the long run. Because while ICEs are less expensive in the showroom, EVs beat them hands down on daily running costs.

Take a look at the per kilometer costs of the above mentioned ICE and EV vehicles. In the 2-wheeler category, the cost per kilometer for ICEs is between 3-10 times higher than

that for EVs (assuming petrol cost as ₹100 per litre and per unit of electricity at ₹10). In the 4-wheeler category, ICEs are 4-5 times more costly on the road.

EVs also have significantly lower servicing costs, and unlike ICEs, where service costs rise sharply with age, EVs see much lower service cost escalation over the same period. And because an EV typically has far fewer moving parts compared to ICEs, they are also cheaper in terms of replacements due to wear-and-tear.

Based on data gathered from owners and industry sources on the above parameters, it becomes clear that electric vehicles win in terms of cost efficiency the longer they are on the roads.

Calculating for a 5-year period and 1-lakh-kilometers of usage, most electric vehicles come out in front. For instance, low-speed 2-wheelers are many times cheaper than ICE peers and even in the high-speed category, the initial difference in costs is either cancelled out, or sharply reduced.

The difference in costs narrow sharply for 4-wheelers too as the calculations show. The cost of running the vehicle is so much lower than ICEs that over a lakh kilometers of usage in the Nexon EV would cost around ₹96,000 (at ₹10 per unit of electricity), while the Maruti Swift is likely to cost ₹4.8 lakh (assuming that fuel costs remain at ₹100 a litre).

So, what's the final word?

Well, if we get down to brass tacks, EVs are still far costlier at the showroom and cost even more for insurance. But, over the course of use, their cheaper fuel and service make them steadily more viable. And the more kilometers you drive, the more cost efficient EVs get.

Pandemic pares down bankers' wages, Aditya Puri highest grossing banker

MUMBAI: HDFC Bank's Aditya Puri emerged as the highest grossing banker among the top three private sector lenders in his retirement year with total emoluments of ₹13.82 crore.

His successor Sashidhar Jagdishan, who took over as CEO and MD of the largest private sector lender on October 27, 2020 grossed a salary of ₹4.77 crore for the fiscal year, which included payments as a group head till his elevation. Puri's overall payments included ₹3.5 crore as post-retirement benefits. Its immediate rival ICICI Bank's MD and CEO Sandeep Bakshi "voluntarily relinquished" his fixed compensation of basic and supplementary allowances for FY21, which had seen wide-scale impact of the COVID pandemic, as per the second largest lender's annual report.

Bakshi, however, did receive allowances and perquisites amounting to ₹38.38 lakh, the document said, adding he also got ₹63.60 lakh as performance bonus from ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company as deferred variable pay for FY17



Execs earn far above median salaries

When compared with the bank's median salary of an employee, Jagdishan's allowances were the highest at 139 times, while Chaudhry earned 104 times, and ICICI Bank executive directors drew 96 times the median

and FY18.

Amitabh Chaudhry, who has been leading the third largest private sector lender Axis Bank, got paid ₹6.52 crore, the bank's annual report said, adding that the top management was not given any salary increment in FY21.

In the case of ICICI Bank, material risk takers including executive directors, chief fi-

nancial officer and company secretary voluntarily opted for a 10 per cent salary reduction from May 1 in their payments, possibly because of the impact of COVID. Its executive director in-charge of wholesale banking Vishakha Mulye grossed ₹5.64 crore, as per the annual report.

When compared with the bank's median salary, the allowances drawn by Jagdishan were the highest at 139 times the median salary of a bank employee, while Chaudhry earned 104 times the median and ICICI Bank executive directors drew 96 times the median salary.

Data available for 'crorepati' bankers, or those earning above ₹8.5 lakh a month, revealed that HDFC Bank had 200 executives in this exclusive club, including key management personnel, serving officials, and those who left the lender midway through the fiscal year.

In comparison, Axis Bank had 69 bankers in the category who served for the full year, while 17 in this bracket club left it midway. PTI

Q1 earnings, global cues to drive markets

EQUITY markets are likely to be guided by ongoing quarterly earnings season and global trends this week and may witness volatility amid the scheduled derivatives expiry, analysts said. Investors would also keenly track the US Fed interest rate decision, they added.

"We expect volatility to remain high due to the scheduled derivatives expiry of July month contracts. Besides, the earnings season would gain pace and some of the prominent names like Axis Bank, Kotak Bank, LT, Tata Motors, Maruti, Colgate, Tech Mahindra, BHEL, IOC... will announce results this week... the global Covid situation and US Fed meeting on July 28 will be in focus," said Ajit Mishra, VP, Religare Broking. PTI

EXPRESS READ

FinMin moves file for extension of PSB MDs, EDs

New Delhi: The finance ministry has moved a file for extension of tenure of three public sector banks' managing directors, including Punjab National Bank (PNB), PTI reported citing sources. Besides, the sources said the ministry has also recommended the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) for extension of 10 executive directors (EDs) of various public sector banks. The three-year term of S S Mallikarjuna Rao, MD and CEO of PNB, is coming to an end on September 18 but the finance ministry has recommended for extension for four months till January 31, 2022.

Gold imports jump to \$7.9 bn in Q1FY21

New Delhi: Gold imports, which have a bearing on the country's current account deficit, jumped multi-fold to \$7.9 billion (\$58,572.99 crore) during the April-June 2021 quarter due to low base effect in the wake of the pandemic, according to data from the Commerce Ministry. Imports of the yellow metal had plunged to \$688 million (₹5,208.41 crore) in the corresponding period last year. India is the largest importer of gold in the world.

JSPIL receives revised ₹7,401-cro offer for JPL

New Delhi: JSPIL on Sunday announced it has received a revised offer of ₹7,401 crore from Worldone Private Limited for divestment of its subsidiary company Jindal Power Limiter (JPL). Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) had earlier announced accepting a ₹3,015-crore offer from Worldone Private Limited to divest 96.42 per cent stake it holds in subsidiary JPL. The divestment is in line with JSPL's strategic objective to reduce debt.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

MARICO

Current Price ₹533.9

Target Price ₹585

—Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of The New Indian Express.



MRCO's resilient product portfolio has delivered an impressive performance across categories, with the domestic business registering strong double-digit volume growth, even as most of QFY22 was disrupted by COVID-led lockdowns.

RAJAS KELKAR

OUR behavioural traits often influence our money habits. You are currently witnessing a sense of euphoria around you. A lot of people

have invested in recent initial public offerings, or IPOs, and made money. They have bought shares last year and made money. There is a good chance that you have made some money too.

All of that is leading to you looking at investing more seriously than ever before. This column has often touched upon behavioural issues like herd mentality and fear of missing out, or FOMO. And a lot of you are nudged and pushed by these two factors.

Take the example of the surge in the registration for demat accounts in India. For years, the total accounts opened hovered around 2 to 2.5 crore. Over the past couple of years, that has zoomed to over 6.5 crore between the two depositories. Most brokerages believe that young people have taken to stock market trading and investing while sitting at home during the pandemic.

There is interest in investing through mutual funds too. Folios of mutual funds have grown sharply over the past few years. Flows into equity mutual funds are healthy and act as a cushion whenever global markets are volatile.

As a nation, we can perhaps celebrate the increased interest of people in the stock markets. However, there is a need to proceed cautiously.

A lot of youngsters are attracted by the money made by others. The FOMO factor pushes them. You do not want to miss out. Similarly, since everybody in the peer group is

6.5 cr

Demat accounts active in India's two depositories

88%

of Indian households invested in gold or real estate in 2017



What that means

Ambiguity aversion could be a good thing to carry forward while investing in equity assets. Those of you who have recently started to invest may want to take note of that.

The way to deal with ambiguity aversion is to get proper knowledge and you can get past these hurdles. In the case of investing, many people are directly buying equity assets. They ask friends whether a particular share is good to buy. The same applies to stock market trading too. You can take that up if you want it to be your primary source of income. You have to be completely into it. You cannot buy or sell shares on the side and expect to generate a sustainable income.

When it comes to IPOs, you need professional advice. An informal conversation may push you to make wrong decisions. You may want to know whether you should subscribe to an IPO offer or buy the stock after it is listed. If you get the allotment and the share price jumps, you may want to know if you should book profits or stay invested. There are tax implications of short-term selling of shares. You pay short-term capital gains on the profit you make. At the same time, that experience will make you put money into many other IPOs that may just not be worth your money.

You need to realise that investing in equity assets is for the long term. It is like planting a tree that takes years to grow and give fruits. And you may want to align all your equity investments to your financial goals.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

MONEY-WISE

SILVER YEAR SOLUTIONS

POST my last column a fortnight ago, on the Silver Years and the need to avoid the Chinese Curse of outliving one's money, I received an interesting feedback mail from a 89 year old gentleman, suggesting Reverse Mortgage as an option.

A Reverse Mortgage involves the bank or financial institution paying the house owner (usually a retiree) a fixed monthly amount during their lifetime. Post the house owner's lifetime, the entity offers the legal heirs the option of repaying the sum issued under reverse mortgage with interest and taking ownership.

Another popular option used by several investors is to invest in an insurance company's Unit Linked Investment Plan (ULIP) in their late forties and allowing it at least a dozen years to mature even though the lock in period is usually five years. Even with the new marginal tax levy, it remains a feasible retirement option if your financial

advisor performs the balancing act between debt and equity adroitly. Mutual Funds too offer multiple retirement plan options and one of the popular ones is a Conservative Retirement Fund. These have a lock-in period of 5 years or 58 years of age, whichever is earlier. Let us now proceed to glance at a few funds from this category.

Nippon India Retirement Fund-Income Generation Scheme has an AUM of ₹264 crore. The Current Asset allocation is 20 per cent in Equity, 72 per cent in Debt and 8 per cent in Cash and Cash equivalents. The equity investments are spread across sectors like Banks, Software

and Consumer Non-durables. The debt investments are in Government Securities. This fund has recorded returns of 8.5 per cent over three-years and 6.9 per cent over five-years.

Tata Retirement Savings Fund-Conservative Plan has an AUM of ₹173 crore. The asset allocation mix is 30 per cent in Equity, 58 per cent in Debt and 12 per cent in Cash and Cash Equivalents. The equity investments are primarily in the Banks and Software industry. The debt allocation comprises Government Securities, Zero-coupon Bonds and State Development Loans. This fund has recorded returns of 8.2 per cent over three-years and 8.4 per cent over five-years.

HDFC Retirement Savings Fund-Hybrid Debt Plan has an AUM of ₹123 crore. Its current asset allocation mix is 14 per cent in Equity, 59 per cent in Debt and 27 per cent in Cash and Cash equivalents. The Equity portion primarily includes investments in Banks and Software

ware whereas the Debt portion comprises of investments in Government securities and higher rated debentures and NCDs. This fund has recorded returns of 8.9 percent over three-years and 8.2 percent over five-years.

The Government's National Pension Scheme (NPS) is also emerging as a popular avenue for retirement planning. However, the scheme may still undergo a few more iterations before settling down.

Clearly then, there is no dearth of options to choose from, provided investors begin planning for their Silver Years well before they are upon them.



FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

Head of LKW-India.

He can be reached at ceolatus@hotmail.com



Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

TWO YEARS

UNPARALLELED ACHIEVEMENTS



Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

Department of Industries and Commerce Karnataka is the New Global Investment Destination



Shri Jagadish Shettar
Hon'ble Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries, Government of Karnataka

Industrial Policy 2020 – 2025

- Production Linked Incentives (PLI) scheme across all sectors.
- Cluster based approach to create sectoral focus.
- Beyond Bengaluru policies for holistic development of the State.
- Land Reforms: Amendment to Section 109 of Land Reforms Act permitting approved industrial projects to directly purchase agricultural land.
- Labour Reforms: Section 64 & 65 of the Factories Act, 1948 amended to allow overtime working hours to be extended to 125 hours per quarter and to allow women workers to work night shifts.
- State-of-the-art private industrial parks and industrial townships in the state.
- Special investment regions to be set up across all districts.

Oxygen Policy

- New scheme to encourage oxygen production with special incentives offered to boost self-sufficiency of oxygen in the state.
- Helps increase daily oxygen production capacity by 1,000 metric tons.
- Capital subsidy on 25% of Value of Fixed Assets, 100% exemptions on power cost duty and stamp duty.

Ease of Doing Business

- Affidavit Based Clearance scheme introduced to ease processes.
- Central Inspection System to aggregate clearances from over 15 departments in the state.
- Reducing compliance burden by simplifying 323 laws.
- Integrated online application services for all investors.

Sectoral Policies

- Aerospace & Defence policy being renewed to promote development of indigenous & advanced technologies, support MSMEs in the supply chain with increased technological access.
- Exclusive Electric Vehicles policy that offers highest subsidy benefits in NPV terms vs. other states in India.



Key achievements

- Received investment proposals worth ₹17,718 crores in April – May 2021 and 120 investment proposals have been cleared.
- Despite the pandemic, Karnataka Ranks 3rd in attracting Foreign Direct Investments. FDI inflows worth \$7.67 billion (₹56,884 crore) for the year 2020-21 which is an increase of 78.8% over the previous year.

- State High-Level Clearance Committee (SHLCC) has cleared 609 Project proposals of investments worth ₹81,314.48 crore.
- Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM) filed with DPIIT includes 120 proposals translating to ₹162,492 crores investment intentions which is 39.19% of the country's share.
- Inked MoUs with 23 companies across sectors to attract ₹28,000 crore investments to generate 15,000 direct employment.

Key Achievements of Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB)

New Projects

- Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) SPV established with GoI and pre-development works is under progress
- Launched Defence and Aerospace Park Phase-II
- Plastic Park at Mangaluru under GoI scheme
- Seven Women Entrepreneurs Parks are developed
- Rs 1,685 Cr development works in Industrial areas are under progress

Ease of Doing Business

- GIS based availability of Industrial Land Infrastructure and integrated with Industrial Information System (IIS) of DPIIT, GoI Online Services for land allotment, NoCs Building Permits, Water and Sewerage
- Online payment services enabled
- Timelines for approvals mandated under SAKALA
- Building Plan approval timelines reduced from 30 days to 15 days

New Initiatives

- Plug and Play provision made available to Industry
- E-Office project being implemented
- Land Audit being conducted through digitalized technologies

Support to MSMEs

- Minimum of 30% of allottable land for MSME

Special Support to SC/ST Entrepreneurs

- 75% subsidized land cost in all zones
- Reserves 22.65% for SC/ST entrepreneurs out of the area earmarked for MSME

Land Acquisition

- Land of about 20,700 acres is in advanced stage of acquisition for development of Industrial Areas
- 15,640 acres is being acquired for Special Linear Projects



Land Allotment

- Land allotted to 914 units with total extent of 1,917 acres
- Land allotted to prominent Industry players such as JSW, Aequs SEZ, Greenko Solar Energy, Assetz Industrial Park, Cerulean Energy Solution and Siemens Healthcare

Reforms

- Amendment to Section 109 of Land Reforms Act permits industries to directly purchase Agricultural land
- Rationalization of FAR and increase in ground coverage up to 65 to maximize utilization of industrial areas



Key Achievements of Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC)

- Hosted one of its kind, 5th edition of Global Exhibition on Services (GES) organised by Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) to boost champion service sectors Aligned with Government of India's vision to boost Champion Services Sectors, the High-Power Committee constituted has identified Six Champion Service Sectors in the State to increase their contribution to GDP. The six Champion Services Sectors identified include Health and Wellness Services, Education Services, Construction and related Engineering Services, Logistics and Transport, Remittances and Emigration Support and Audio-Visual Services.
- An Export Strategy for Karnataka was formulated in association with FIEO, which provides a roadmap for the growth and development export promotion from the State
- The prestigious State Export Excellence Awards were conferred to 63 awardees across 16 Product categories for export excellence

- To provide impetus and encourage manufacturing capabilities of SMEs and Startups in the State, Sir M Visvesvaraya Manufacturing Excellence Awards to 47 awardees were honored for manufacturing excellence.
- Hon'ble Minister for Large & Medium Industries Shri Jagadish Shettar represented Karnataka at the Board of Trade Meeting attended by various departments of the Central Government, representatives of all State Governments and Union Territories along with representatives of trade and industry. The deliberations included strategies and measures to be undertaken in order to boost domestic manufacturing and exports in the state
- Government of Karnataka pioneered an exclusive Policy for promotion of Geographical Indications, which aims to protect and promote the traditional legacies of the State
- Additionally, synergising with Govt. of India's Atma Nirbhar Vision and initiatives, VTPC is working on implementing 'Developing Districts as Export Hubs' and establishing Export Development Centers in 5 Districts - Mysuru, Shivamogga, Hubballi-Dharwad, Ramanagara and Bidar districts.

- To onboard and enable artisans/SMEs and exporters on e-commerce platforms, Govt of Karnataka signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amazon Global Selling. As part of the agreement, Amazon will train MSMEs from the state on Global Selling, its Exports Program, enabling them to sell to customers globally
- VTPC is also working for Integrated Development of Logistics Sector in the State.



As enshrined in our Constitution, 'to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement' is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Dr. N. Shivashankara, IAS
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Member, KIADB

Gunjan Krishna, IAS
Commissioner for Industrial Development & Director of Industries & Commerce Government of Karnataka

Dr. Raj Kumar Khatri, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary to Government Commerce and Industries, Government of Karnataka



Manu's script goes awry after pistol snag

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

IN her 60th and final shot during the qualification stage on Sunday, pistol ace Manu Bhaker needed to be bang on target. She was in a do-or-die situation. If she could manage a perfect score, she'd stay in contention or else it meant an early exit for her first event — women's 10m air pistol — in the Olympics. But what followed was a disaster. She could only manage an 8 and thus her fate was sealed.

After Saturday's setback, Manu, touted to be one of the biggest medal hopes, crashing out early was a big blow for India. However, it was later confirmed that Manu had issues with her pistol during the early part of the qualification stage. At a stage where every shot is worth gold, she was forced to fix her pistol after the cocking lever broke. To make matters worse, she also had a circuit malfunction.

"Basically, you pull this lever and the barrel opens so you can load. The lever broke so she couldn't load and then the circuit also stopped working," India high performance manager Ronak Pandit, who has been coaching Manu for around two months, told this daily.

That meant she lost out on valuable time. The participants have to shoot 60 shots in 75 minutes. So she had to adjust her approach after returning and shoot at a faster rate. "All this of course gets onto your nerves and fixing a gun takes time. So we lost time. When you are short on time, the pressure increases and you don't have time to relax and take corrective steps," Ronak noted. Having come so near her target, Manu was naturally downcast. The good news for Manu is that she has two more chances. She'll be taking part in the mixed team event along with Saurabh Chaudhary and she'll also be competing in the women's 25 pistol (individual).

Rifle shooters miss out

Divyansh Singh Panwar and Deepak Kumar also had a day to forget. The duo, competing in men's 10m air rifle never looked like they'll challenge the top performers. Deepak finished in the 26th spot with 634.7 while Divyansh finished 32nd.

Angad 11th after 3 rounds

Skeet shooter Angad Vir Singh Bajwa missed two targets out of 75 to be placed 11th on countback at the end of the third round in men's skeet qualifications. Mairaj Ahmad Khan shot 71 and was placed 25th. The remaining two rounds will be held on Monday. The top-six qualify for final.

Mathematician pulls off stunning road race victory after building a daring, race-long breakaway, nets Austria its first Olympic cycling gold since 1896

Dr STRANGE

ASSOCIATED PRESS @ Oiyama

ANNA Kiesenhofer finally figured out a way to beat the powerhouse Dutch in the women's Olympic road race: Make them forget you're even there.

The mathematician from Austria got into an early breakaway on Sunday, then built a gap so big the rest of the field failed to remember she was out ahead. So when Annemiek van Vleuten escaped in the final kilometers and crossed the finish line alone, she threw her arms into the air thinking she had won a third straight gold medal for the Netherlands.

Her teammate and defending champion Anna van der Breggen also thought she won. So did Britain's Lizzie Deignan, who told the BBC: "The best person won the bike race here today. Annemiek was clearly the strongest."

Turns out it wasn't so clear. She wasn't the strongest.

There are no radios allowed at the Olympics, like there are at professional races, and that makes it difficult to know where riders stand on the road. But it became clear from the lack of urgency in the peloton to chase Kiesenhofer down at

the end of a brutally hot day in the saddle that most riders simply forgot she was there.

"I couldn't believe it," Kiesenhofer said. "Even when I crossed the line, it was like, 'Is it done now?'"

Her elation stood in stark contrast to the bitter disappointment for the 38-year-old van Vleuten, who was trying to follow in the footsteps of van der Breggen and 2012 champion Marianne Vos. Five years ago, van Vleuten was leading in Rio before a horrific crash on a sharp descent left her with a concussion and three fractures in her lower back.

"I'm gutted," van Vleuten said. "With five kilometers to go, Marianne came up to me, none of us knew if everyone was caught back. This is an example of what happens if you ride an important race like this without communication."

Kiesenhofer's curriculum vitae features more academic accomplishments than cycling ones: a degree from the Techni-

cal University of Vienna, studies at Cambridge and a doctorate from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia. She spends time teaching at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland rather than doing altitude training in the Alps.

In fact, Kiesenhofer doesn't have a coach or professional cycling contract. She manages her own nutrition and creates her own training plans. She was entered in the road race without the benefit of an Austrian teammate to help her out.

None of that mattered.

Kiesenhofer held her arms in triumph — just as van Vleuten would minutes later — as she finished before a crowd of several thousand fans. Then she toppled to the asphalt, face crusted in sweat, and fought back tears at the realization she had won Austria's first cycling medal since Adolf Schmal at the first Summer Olympics in 1896.

"It's just so incredible," Kiesenhofer said. "I have really sacrificed so much for today. I

wasn't expecting to finish it off like that. I sacrificed everything even for a top-15 place and now to get this, for the sacrifices, it's just such a reward."

Tight Covid-19 controls that have kept fans from seeing most of the Olympics in person do not apply in the Shizuoka Prefecture, so thousands turned out for the second consecutive day to watch the racing at Fuji International Speedway.

The problems began for the Dutch in the race's mid-part.

Van Vleuten had a mechanical issue that resulted in a bike change, forcing Vos to drop back and help pace her teammate into the field. As soon as they arrived, Danish rider Emma Cecilie Joergensen hit the deck and van Vleuten locked up her back wheel and rode right into her, leaving their bikes tangled on the tarmac.

The attacks began to fly with 60 km left in the 137-km journey southwest of Tokyo. Problem was Kiesenhofer was grinding away somewhere up the road.

She had left breakaway companions Omer Shapira of Israel and Anna Plichta of Poland before reaching the speedway, then held a gap of five minutes as she began a closing circuit.

EXPRESS READ

IPL to resume with MI vs CSK on Sept 19 in Dubai

NEW DELHI: Mumbai Indians will meet Chennai Super Kings in Dubai on September 19 when the IPL resumes in the United Arab Emirates, the BCCI announced on Sunday. The tournament was suspended in May after multiple Covid-19 cases were reported in its bio-bubble. 31 matches will be played in the duration of 27 days including seven doubles headers (five were held in India).

Surya, Bhuvu shine in thumping India win

COLOMBO: Suryakumar Yadav's 50 and an all-round bowling display, spearheaded by Bhuvneshwar Kumar, helped India beat Sri Lanka by 38 runs in the first T20I on Sunday. Sent in to bat, India scored 164/5. In response, Sri Lanka were skittled for 126 in 18.3 overs. **Brief scores:** India 164/5 in 20 ovs (S Yadav 50) bt Sri Lanka 126 in 18.3 ovs (Kumar 4/22).

Pranay stars in Equestrian

BENGALURU: Pranay Khare of URB starred in the Equestrian Premier League (EPL) in the city over the weekend. He managed to clinch first place in the 115cm, 120cm and 130cm show jumping events. In the 110cm show jumping, it was Sanyogita Kadu from EIRS, who did well to secure first place.

BFC sign Kashmiri frontman Danish

BENGALURU: Bengaluru FC signed Danish Farooq on a two-year contract, the club announced on Sunday. The 25-year-old attacker, who is the first player from Jammu and Kashmir to sign for the club, has joined the Blues ahead of their upcoming AFC Cup playoff stage clash against Eagles FC.

Was difficult to hit peak soon after Rome: Srihari

VIVEK KRISHNAN @ Chennai

AT the sprawling Tokyo Aquatics Centre on Sunday, Srihari Nataraj's maiden Olympic outing was a bittersweet occasion. While competing alongside the world's best swimmers at the Olympic stage was an enriching experience that will stay with the youngster, he was personally expecting to do better than his timing of 54.31s in the 100m backstroke event. That effort saw him finish at 27th position in the overall standings in the heats as a spot in the semifinals expectedly remained out of grasp.

He had achieved a personal best of 53.77s just a few weeks ago at a qualifying event in Rome, which was a seminal moment for Indian swimming as he, alongside Sajan Prakash, became the first from the country to make the A cut for the Olympics. It had given Srihari reason for optimism.

"I was actually confident that I could better my personal best," Srihari offered, after finishing fifth in the group of eight swimmers in his heat section.

If he had even matched his personal best, it would have been good enough to finish among the top-16 swimmers and qualify for the semifinals.

But having peaked in Rome, both the swimmer and his coach, Nihar Ameen pointed out that it was difficult to repeat that feat in such a short span of time.

"After achieving the timing in Rome, it was difficult to back it up in a short span as the recovery to be in top shape takes a bit of time. I did the best I could in the training time of 3 weeks that I had but the absence of turnaround time took a toll," the 20-year-old explained, without intending to offer any excuses.

Russians top Biles, Americans in gymnastics qualifying

WILL GRAVES @ Tokyo

THE trouble started early. A step out of bounds on floor exercise here. A short landing there. Over the course of two hours on Sunday, the mistakes — some almost imperceptible, some laid bare for the world to see — kept piling up, chipping away at the aura USA Gymnastics has built over the past decade. Not even the greatest of all time was immune to the realities of a sport where perfection is unattainable.

For 11 years, the Americans flirted with it, at least from a competitive standpoint, flying



Star gymnast Simone Biles reacts after her performance in the qualification in Tokyo on Sunday | AP

all over the globe, then flying back home with their suitcases stuffed with gold. It still might happen at the Tokyo Olympics. But for the first time in a long time, it appears it won't happen without a fight. Russia pulled off a stunner in qualifying, posting a top score of 171.629, more than a full point ahead of the US total 170.562. While reigning Olympic champion Simone Biles topped the all-around with teammate Sunisa Lee close behind in third, the Americans ended their session looking up at another name on

the scoreboard in the team standings for the first time since the 2010 world championships.

"This was not the finals," US high-performance director Tom Forster said. "This was getting into the finals. So this might be a great awakening for us."

China, France, Belgium, Great Britain, Italy and hosts Japan also advanced to Tuesday night's final. Olympic legend Oksana Chusovitina's journey is over. The 46-year-old from Uzbekistan did not qualify during the vault final at her record eighth Olympics.

Athletes, judges and administrators rose to their feet to salute Chusovitina as she made her way off the floor. She waved to the crowd with tears in her eyes before posing for pictures with whoever wanted one. Not even Biles was immune. While the 24-year-old star topped the all-around with a total of 57.731 and advanced to the finals in all four events, it didn't come easy. She backpedaled all the way off the mat following a tumbling pass on her floor exercise, then basically did the same on vault. She responded with a solid set on uneven bars, but a spectacular beam routine ended with her temporarily reeling following her dismount, something Forster said he's never seen her do.

Biles, who came to Japan as the face of the US Olympic movement and possibly the Games themselves, saluted the judges then walked off the podium with a smile that looked like a combination of relief, sarcasm and frustration. AP



Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India



Sri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyana

Inviting applications / proposals under (PMFME)
Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme



One District One Product (ODOP) Approach

Golden Opportunity for Development of Micro Food Processing Enterprises in Karnataka

Scheme Components:

- Support to Individual Micro Enterprises: Upgrading existing micro units- credit linked subsidy @ 35% subject to a maximum of Rs.10 lakhs
- FPOs/SHGs/Cooperatives: credit linked capital investment grant @35%
- SHG Members : Seed capital support of Rs. 40,000 to SHG members for working capital & small tools
- Common infrastructure: credit linked grant @35 %
- Support for marketing & branding: 50 % grant

One District One Product (ODOP)

- Jaggery**- Bagalkote, Mandya, Belagavi
- Groundnut**- Chitradurga, Yadgir
- Millets**-Davanagere
- Red Gram**- Kalaburagi
- Coconut**-Tumakuru, Hassan, Ramanagara
- Tomato**- Chikkaballapur, Kolar
- Mango**- Dharwad, Haveri
- Pinapple**- Shivamogga
- Banana**- Mysuru
- Lemon/lime**- Vijayapura
- Fig**- Bellary
- Ginger**- Bidar
- Byadagi Chilli**- Gadag
- Guava**- Koppal
- Coffee**- Kodagu
- Turmeric**- Chamarajanagar
- Red Chilies**- Raichur
- Spices**- Chikkamagaluru, Uttara Kannada
- Bakery Products**- Bengaluru Urban
- Poultry Products**- Bengaluru Rural
- Marine Products**- Dakshina Kannada, Udupi

Any existing unorganized micro food processing entrepreneurs or new entrepreneurs for processing of selected ODOP of the district can submit their application under the scheme.

For more information & submission of application
Please Contact District Joint Directors of Agriculture of the Concerned District or SPMU of KAPPEC -Ph: 9731201215/9844468648

Website Address:
<https://pmfme.mofpi.gov.in/>
<https://kappec.karnataka.gov.in/>

State Nodel Agency
Karnataka State Agricultural Produce Processing & Export Corporation Limited
No.17, General K.S.Thimayya Road, Bengaluru, Email: kappec1996@gmail.com/pmfme.karnataka@gmail.com



DAY'S DIARY

Indian MP in London

Nationalist and critic of British economic policy in India, Dadabhai Naoroji was elected to represent Central Finsbury for the Liberal Party in London

THE INC CONNECT

He was elected as the first Indian Member of Parliament in Britain in 1892. He was one of the founders of the Indian National Congress and attended the first session in 1885



THE CONTROVERSY

Lord Salisbury, the then Prime Minister of England, called Naoroji a "black man", sparking a sensation. The support towards Naoroji helped him get elected to the House of Commons



ASSOCIATIONS

He established some of the earliest South Asian associations, including the London Indian society, the East Indian Association and the London Zoroastrian Association

Trisha in talks for Puneeth's film

PG 4



THREE MUSKETEERS

Ranna actress Rachita Ram recently shared a few reunion pictures with her best friends on her Instagram. "It's always good to be surrounded with #likemindedpeople #likemindedvibes #threemusketeers @aravindshiv @shwethahc12," captioned the 28-year-old. Visit her Instagram to check it out. The actress' next film is titled 'Love you Racchu', which is a romantic entertainer, in which she is paired opposite actor Ajay Rao, popularly known as 'Sandalwood Krishna'.



Bengaluru boy Mikhail Sen, who shot to fame with Netflix series *A Suitable Boy*, is making waves with his latest project, the narration of audiobook, *The Waiter* by Ajay Chowdhury

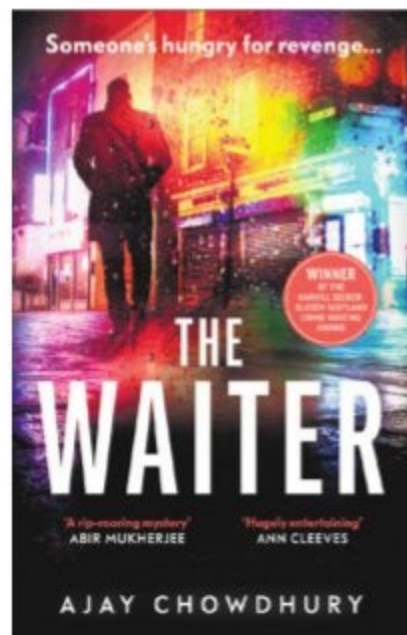
VIDYA IYENGAR

If serendipity got him the role of Amit Chatterji in *A Suitable Boy*, it was once again a call from out of the blue that bagged artiste Mikhail Sen an audio book, *The Waiter* by Ajay Chowdhury, which won the Harvill Secker Prize for Crime Fiction. After a "fascinating year", Sen is now venturing into new spaces - writing and doing audiobooks, both of which he enjoys very much. "I remember it was a phone call out of the blue while I was back home in Bengaluru when I was asked to do a demo read, and my dad whose Bengali is a lot better than mine, helped me record it," he says.

Much has changed in the last one year for Sen, whose Netflix series, *A Suitable Boy*, played a key role in that. "Post *A Suitable Boy*, (I) felt a bit strange but it was also quite fun to get recognised when I was out and watching people stare intently as they tried to place me," says Sen about the show which opened in the UK last year in the middle of the pandemic.

Coming back to the audio book, it revolves around a disgraced Kolkata detective, Kamil Rahman, who ends up working as a waiter in a restaurant in Brick Lane, London. As Sen puts it, the fast-paced, funny murder mystery has all the "moshla" (masala) and

LOUD AND CLEAR



twists that will keep you on your toes. The exciting and fun thing about reading an audio-book for him is getting to play all the characters in the story. "Finding their voice, accent and who they are is really important, so I always read the book at least once (if not twice) before I go into the studio. What's also useful is that, with this one, I knew both worlds quite well. Kolkata is where my father's side of the family is from, and London is where I live," he says.

While voice training was something he did at drama school and still uses some exercises, especially on stage, audio work, he feels, isn't about projection. "You've got extremely sensitive mics. It's almost about making the mic your friend and telling your friend the story," he says, adding that audiobooks have tremendous scope in today's world.

How has the pandemic affected the life and livelihood of artistes? "Being an artiste prepares you for the uncertainty of life. The pandemic brought an immense amount of insecurity with it. I can only speak for myself by saying that I went through all of that uncertainty and insecurity and it taught me to surrender more. I'm not saying I've mastered it, but there have been many lessons. The biggest one is to take nothing for granted and try and enjoy every moment," says Sen, who did a short film in April with the English National Opera which is part of their educational outreach programme. "I don't do any singing (thankfully) but play a young composer who stumbles on a piece of music. There's another project that will be out in 2022," says Sen while being discreet.



PICT: NIMISH JAIN

Being an artiste prepares you for the uncertainty of life. The pandemic brought an immense amount of insecurity with it. I can only speak for myself by saying that I went through all of that uncertainty and insecurity and it taught me to surrender more

Mikhail Sen, artiste

Monika Manchanda, a city-based food writer and consultant, co-founder and chief culinary officer at LiveAtLife, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are.



THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to bengaluruexpress@gmail.com with the subject line 'Food quiz'

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents are published here. The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher worth ₹2,000 from Suzy Q by 1522 **

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Rex; 2) Woody's; 3) Meghana Foods

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Anand G
2. Renu Shah
3. Vikram R

* Conditions apply

CITY READ

Outdoor Bazaar

BLOSSOMS '21, an outdoor bazaar, featuring fashion accessories, jewellery, home decor and more, will be hosted at the lawns of Raintree, Sankey Road. The bazaar is open on July 30 and 31 from 10.30 am to 6.30 pm

Calling for entries

The 23rd edition of Thespo, a youth theatre movement, is inviting artistes under the age of 25 to showcase their talents. Artistes interested in audio fiction can send in a 5-7-minute solo performance. For more information, visit thespo.org



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90.83%



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90.66%



Vatsal Mehta
Science - PCME
89.33%



Vijay Jain
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88.64% (100 in Hindi)



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88.16%



Vaishnavi R
Commerce - CEBA
88.16%



Mahendra Patel
Commerce - SEBA
88%



Sneha C R
Commerce - SEBA
88%



Shri Sharan S
Science - PCMB
88%



Chandini Singh
Commerce - SEBA
87.83%



Sushma R
Commerce - SEBA
87.44%



Antima N Nahata
Commerce - SEBA
87.33%



Ashiya Fazil
Commerce - CEBA
87.16%



Ashwini S
Science - PCMC
86.83%



Lahari H
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86.5%



Savita G Solanki
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86.33%



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85.83%



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85.44%



Bhoomika P
Science - PCMC
85.5%



Neetu Kanwar
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85%

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COCKTAIL MAKING

Learn about the cocktail culture by signing up for this workshop. In this event, you will interact with expert Afzal Kaba who will make wacky cocktails all while improving your mixology skills.

When: July 31
Details: insider.in



Swadeshi Touch

GoCoop, an online marketplace for artisans and weavers, is hosting 'Go Swadeshi', an exhibition showcasing handcrafted weaves from different parts of the country. The five-day event will feature a range of contemporary and traditional handlooms from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, among others.

When: July 28 onwards, 11am
Where: Poomma Convention Centre, Jayanagar



ONLINE JAMMING

Join this free jamming session to jam your stress away with the music community. Jamming Adda gives an opportunity to artists who want to sing, play an instrument or simply experience music.

When: Till July 31, 10pm
Details: insider.in



FUN LEARNING

Introduce your child to the world of alphabets in this online workshop. The instructor will teach alphabets in a unique way by starting with the easiest sounding alphabets and progress further. It will include an introduction to letters, the story around the letters and much more.

When: July 27 onwards
Register: bookmyshow.com



Zero-Waste living

Sign up for this workshop and rethink your relationship with waste. In this workshop, you will understand the global garbage crisis, its impact, and 20 steps to progress towards zero waste living and waste segregation.

When: July 31
Details: insider.in



Music Show

At tend Kena Upanishad at Bangalore International Centre. The live show is a combination of Dhrupad music, theatre and movements, based on Yakshagana and Asana.

When: July 30 and August 1
Register: insider.in



Mind Mapping

Sign up for this workshop to learn how to mind map and take notes effectively. The workshop covers making concise notes, organisation and scheduling and more using mind mapping techniques.

When: August 1-2
Details: insider.in

Mental health Workshop

Register for the mental health workshop by Masterlife with Anna Chandy, a mental health expert. It will help learn more about how one can treat mental illness and help to create positive habits.

When: Every day, 2 pm
Details: insider.in



Actor's Workshop

Here is a workshop for aspiring actors. This workshop will help you learn techniques to analyse the script. The workshop will teach you the difference and nuances of the text, context, and subtext. It will teach you to analyse and prepare for a scene accordingly.

When: July 31
Register: bookmyshow.com

QUICK FIX

What's cooking IN YOUR KITCHEN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.



THREE-INGREDIENT DIET CHOCOLATE

INGREDIENTS

- Cocoa powder (unsweetened): 1 big cup ■ Honey: 5 tbsp
- Coconut oil: 1/2 cup

METHOD

- Mix the cocoa powder, coconut oil and honey in a pan.
- On a low flame, saute for 45 seconds.
- Pour the batter into a mould of your choice and freeze for 2 hours.
- Your chocolate is ready to eat.

—Suketu Murali, Bengaluru

FIT BIT

ARDHA DHANURASANA (HALF BOW POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'ardha' means half, 'dhanur' means bow and 'asana' means pose. It is a back bending asana that is a less intense variation of Dhanurasana. It provides a bit more intense stretch, but not as intense as Dhanurasana. Traditionally, it opens the Manipura (solar plexus or navel) Chakra, the body's energy and vitality centre. By activating the Manipura, the yogi is able to dispel fear and insecurity; cultivate self-esteem, self-confidence and a sense of purpose; and stimulate the inner fire that creates a goal-driven attitude. It also opens up the Nadis, promoting flow of prana.

STEPS

1. Lie down on your stomach. Join both the legs and keep your hands out.
2. Extend the left arm forward with the palm facing up with ching/gyan mudra.
3. Bend the right knee and hold the heel with the right hand.
4. Raising the knees off the ground, pull the entire thigh. From the front, lift the neck and hands above the ground, while inhaling.
5. Stay in this pose for as long as you can, breathing normally. Slowly come back to the normal position.
6. Now keep the right hand forward.
7. Bend the left knee and hold the left heel with the left hand.
8. While inhaling, lift the knees, neck, chin, and hands above the ground keeping the entire elbow straight. And keep the body stable in this position.
9. Slowly come back to normal position.

BENEFITS

- Protects the back from the ill-effects of sitting all day.
- Helps from deterioration of the size of the reed bone or back pain.
- All the stretch happens on the throat, hence internal glands and throat muscles become active.
- A stretch is created over the lungs, expanding the chest fully. Hence, the respiratory system improves.
- Blood vessels around the heart open for blood to flow freely.
- Upper thigh muscles are stretched making it strong and flexible.
- Due to pressure on the stomach the internal organs are activated.
- Beneficial for an enlarged stomach and also problems related to the digestive system.
- Good asana for the problem of neck pain and cervical spondylosis.

LIMITATIONS

- If you have any serious disease related to stomach, back, heart, ulcer, hernia, knees, or the problem of high blood pressure, avoid this practice.

—by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai



SOUND BOARD

THE GRATITUDE DIARIES

Relying on both amusing personal experiences and extensive research, host Janice Kaplan explores how gratitude can transform every aspect of life including marriage and friendship, money and ambition, and health and well-being.

● On Spotify

THE KITCHEN IS ON FIRE

Food writer James Ramsden and musician Sam Herlihy dish up a weekly offering of food-related nonsense, exploring the complex and often confusing world of modern gastronomy.

● On Apple Podcasts

THE KEVIN ROSE SHOW

Join entrepreneur, technology investor, and self-experimenter Kevin Rose as he interviews technologists, scientists, meditators, self-experimenters, and productivity hackers to discover insights that you can incorporate into daily life.

● On Apple Podcasts

GHOST MAPS: TRUE SOUTHEAST ASIAN HORROR STORIES

Ghost Maps follows a mysterious narrator as he chronicles the supernatural in Singapore and around Southeast Asia. Inspired by stories generously shared by real people.

● On Spotify

THE BIOLOGY OF SUPERHEROES

Scientists are brought in as guests to review superheroes from movies or comic books based on the science behind what may have inspired every hero's power and abilities.

● On Apple Podcasts

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

PAATTALI

Despite being the sole heir to a large fortune, Shanmugam is forced to work as a servant by his aunt. Circumstances force him to marry Kannamma even though he is in love with Sakunthala.

● Cast: Sarathkumar, Ramya Krishnan, Devayani, Vadivelu

AADHAVAN

Aadhavan, a professional sharpshooter, gets a contract to kill Subramaniam, a prominent judge. He enters his house as a servant and wins the heart of his family members while plotting his death.

● Cast: Suriya, Nayanthara, Vadivelu, Saroja Devi

SAIVAM

When ill luck befalls a family, the patriarch decides to please the gods by offering their pet rooster as a sacrifice. However, things do not go as expected as the rooster goes missing.

● Cast: Nassar, Sara Arjun, Iwara Desai, Kausalya

PAIYAA

Shiva, an unemployed graduate, falls in love with Charulatha. However, when on Charulatha's request, he drives her to Mumbai, the two are chased down by two different gangs for different reasons.

● Cast: Karthi, Tamannaah, Milind Soman, Sonia Deepti



Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS



1 WHAT TO DO WHEN CLIMATE CHANGE FEELS UNSTOPPABLE BY CLOVER HOGAN

Gen-Zer and activist Clover Hogan knows the struggle and also understands the path to climate action starts with the one thing you can control: your mindset. She explains why challenging the stories that keep you feeling powerless can help you take the first step to protecting the planet for generations to come.



2 THIS DECADE CALLS FOR EARTHSHOTS TO REPAIR OUR PLANET BY PRINCE WILLIAM

Inspired by President John F. Kennedy's "Moonshot", Prince William, The Duke of Cambridge, calls on us all to rise to our greatest challenge ever: the "Earthshot." A set of ambitious objectives for the planet, the Earthshot goals seek to protect and restore nature, clean the air, revive oceans, build a waste-free world and fix the climate.



3 WHY IT'S SO HARD TO TALK ABOUT THE N-WORD BY ELIZABETH STORDEUR PRYOR

Historian Elizabeth Stordeur Pryor leads a thoughtful and history-backed examination of one of the most divisive words in the English language: the N-word. Drawing from personal experience, she explains how reflecting on our points of encounter with the word can help promote productive discussions.



4 HOW A BLIND ASTRONOMER FOUND A WAY TO HEAR THE STARS BY WANDA DIAZ MERCED

When she lost her sight and was left without a way to do her science, Wanda Diaz Merced had a revelatory insight: the light curves she could no longer see could be translated into sound. Through sonification, she regained mastery over her work, and now she's advocating for a more inclusive scientific community.



5 HOW WE EXPLORE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS IN PHYSICS BY JAMES BEACHAM

James Beacham looks for answers to the most important open questions of physics using CERN's Large Hadron Collider. In this talk, Beacham takes us on a journey through extra-spatial dimensions in search of undiscovered fundamental particles.

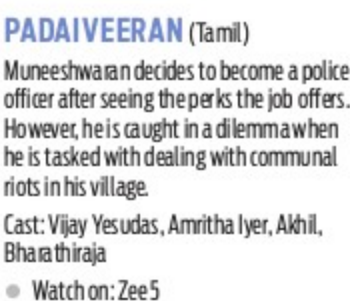
REGIONAL



MALIK (Malayalam)

A young man rises to prominence through his unwavering fight against political and police corruption in his village.

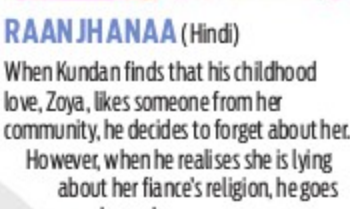
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video



PADAIVEERAN (Tamil)

Muneeshwaran decides to become a police officer after seeing the perks the job offers. However, he is caught in a dilemma when he is tasked with dealing with communal riots in his village.

● Cast: Vijay Yesudas, Amritha Iyer, Akhil, Bhairav
● Watch on: Zee 5



RAAN JHANNA (Hindi)

When Kundan finds that his childhood love, Zoya, likes someone from her community, he decides to forget about her. However, when he realises she is lying about her fiancé's religion, he goes berserk.

● Cast: Dhanush, Sonam Kapoor, Abhay Deol, Swara Bhaskar, Zeeshan Mohammed
● Watch on: Zee 5



TOOFAN (Hindi)

An inspiring story of an orphan from the streets of Dongri, who grows up to become a local goon and how his life changes after he meets a young and compassionate girl who guides him on the right path and makes him realise his true calling—boxing.

● Cast: Farhan Akhtar, Mrunal Thakur, Paresh Rawal, Darshan Kumar
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video



IKKAT (Kannada)

A warring couple is on the verge of divorce. However, the pandemic and the lockdown force them to stay together and put their plan for separation on the back burner.

● Cast: Nagabhusan, Bhoomika Shetty
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video



ONDU MOTTEYA KATHE (Kannada)

Janardhan, a reserved young man, contemplates his options after an astrologer predicts an asetic future for him unless he gets married within the year.

● Cast: Raj B Shetty, Amrutha Naik, Deepak Rai Panaje, Usha Bhandary
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

FOREIGN

TOM & JERRY (English)

A legendary rivalry reemerges when Jerry moves into New York City's finest hotel on the eve of the wedding of the century, forcing the desperate event planner to hire Tom to get rid of him. As mayhem ensues, the escalating cat-and-mouse battle soon threatens to destroy her career, the wedding, and possibly the hotel itself.

● Cast: Chloe Grace Moretz, Pallavi Sharda, Colin Jost, Michael Pena
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

MOULIN ROUGE (English)

Christian, an English writer, travels to Paris to join the Bohemian revolution. He visits the city's biggest night club, Moulin Rouge, and falls in love with its star performer and courtesan, Satine.

● Cast: Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor, Jim Broadbent, John Leguizamo
● Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar



A PERFECT FIT (Indonesian)

Sparks fly when a fashion blogger in Bali meets a gifted shoemaker, leading her to question her commitment to her fiancé.

● Cast: Nadya Arina, Refal Hady
● Watch on: Netflix



ROAD TO PERDITION (English)

An assassin is on the run after his son witnesses a murder committed by his boss. He is torn between being loyal to his boss and saving his own child.

● Cast: Tom Hanks, Paul Newman, Jude Law, Tyler Hoechlin
● Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

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Zee 5	₹ 99 per month



The garden of Dolores Arulappan, the winner of gardening contest under the senior citizen category



From gardens in North India to tea and coffee plantations in Ooty and Kerala, he (Krumbiegel) is best known for redesigning the Lalbagh layout in the city as a superintendent in 1908

Alisha Fernandes, founder, GHK Foundation

GROWING GREEN FINGERS

Nine hundred entries of lockdown gardening made it tough for the judges to pick the winners of the first online gardening contest

SUDESHNA DUTTA

Of the many hobbies that people acquired during the lockdown, honing culinary skills and growing a green thumb emerged as the top winners in Bengaluru. And so, Ayesha

Fernandes, along with the support of Alisha Krumbiegel, founder of GHK Foundation and the great granddaughter of legendary German horticulturalist Gustav Herman Krumbiegel, celebrated lockdown gardening by hosting the first-of-its-kind online gardening contest with green enthusiasts in the city.



Garden of Priya Mascarenhas

Fernandes, moderator of Bangalore Gardeners, a Facebook group with over 19,000 members, tells CE, "Being an interactive group, we used to hold regular discussions on how to keep ourselves engaged and in the process, the idea of the contest came up. By the end of May, we had 900 entries for six categories, so choosing the winners was a tough job for the judges."

Alisha was one of the key members to initiate a contest. On her first visit to Bengaluru in 2006, she started the Gustav Herman Krumbiegel (GHK) Foundation upon realising how important a legacy he has left for her. "From gardens in North India to tea and coffee plantations in Ooty and Kerala, he is best known for redesigning the Lalbagh layout in the city as a superintendent in 1908. The economic botanist has also left an indelible mark by beautifying colleges and hospitals, NIMHANS, for example," says Alisha, who lives in London, adding that the

contest has been a great learning for many. "We were overwhelmed with so many beautiful photos of greenery," she says. The prizes were sponsored by Greenhouse BIR, Nivvy's Roots And Shoots, Orchid Tree, Nature Sense, Earth Whisperer Store and The Green Tag.

In a way, the lockdown helped break the myth that gardening requires top skills and large space to grow plants, says Priya Chetty Rajagopal, founder-trustee of CJ Memorial Trust and one of the judges for the contest. "Not only did it ignite a sense of creativity, the long hours of staying at home made people want to beautify their homes with whatever space they have. The same thing happened with me as I took interest in the plant world during the pandemic. We spent a lot of time going through the beautiful photos and held online meetings to announce the winners for each category like senior, indoor, terrace, balcony, bloom and Madhuvan," she says.

Priya Mascarenhas, who won the Madhuvan Award, needs no introduction for gardening buffs in Bengaluru. For the past 35 years, the Richards Town resident has continuously won the 'Best Ornamental Garden' Award for her half-acre lush green haven, organised by the Horticulture Department of Lalbagh.

Hailing from a family of coffee planters, she tends to a variety of exotic plants like wild orchids, Isora, Monstera, different kinds of shrubs, flowering plants, fruit trees and more. "I have been gardening for more than 40 years at my 140-year-old heritage bungalow," she adds.



Ayesha Fernandes



The Lalit Bekal, Kerala

Wellness 'holistays'

With travel on halt, travellers are exploring many ways to relax; one being holistic wellbeing amidst nature



PAIRED WITH PANACHE

Anuja Pandey

(The writer (@loftyspectrums) is a social media influencer and lifestyle coach)

Many travellers are eager to explore the latest in wellness as it is available in many forms today. Post lockdown is the time to ease into vacation mode in safe environs where one can reap the healing benefits for mind, body and soul. A wellness retreat offers a perfect mix of comfort, solace and health benefits in the present scenario. The wellness professionals at various retreats are committed to promoting holistic well-being to their guests that extends beyond a singular massage or treatment, and by specifically targeting internal inflammation, stress relief and overall well-being. Who would not wish to better surrender to an island lifestyle to soak up in the tranquility of nature? Yes, it's the wellness resorts that are the call of the times.* Why wellness resorts

The wellness retreats offer massages for lymphatic drainage, taking care of your skin and mind. Aromatic treatments alleviate the stress and lend a refreshed and calm perspective. The fabulous body wraps, rose petal baths amidst natural scenic beauty while you sip the herbs or flower infused drinks impart truly incredible moments adding to the experience. The therapists and nutritionists personally curate and monitor the diet and routine to get one started towards a journey of health and bliss.

Choose destinations that are a drive away

There are many ayurvedic retreats in and around Bengaluru that offer holistic diet and wellness pro-

grammes tailored according to the 'prakriti' and three 'doshas' of the body. Thus, a personalised health holi-stay coupled with wellness is the need of the hour. Dr Suraj from The Lalit Bekal says, "We, at the resort, primarily take care of three things which are ahaara, vihara and chikitsa. In ahaara, we serve what we grow. In vihara, we try to burn what we have earned and in chikitsa, we try mainly to focus on regaining your vitality and improving your immunity."

Kinds of retreats

There's a distinct health journey for each individual-ancient ayurvedic therapies like mud baths or sensory soothing beautifying therapies like milk bath-each has a different purpose and one needs to decide what one is looking for. A full body coffee exfoliation for the skin or a gemstones acupuncture therapy for the mind, or a honey bath and Vichy shower for that sweetness in heart - each has its own unique feel. "Since travel is on pause, guests are looking for relaxing staycations and wellness holidays. It does help that the multiplicity of lush gardens and open terraces lend a peaceful resort-like vibe to our hotel. "We are pet friendly and petcations with family are rejuvenating for all. The luxurious treatments at our Infuse Spa make for a wellness retreat and guests love to indulge themselves with our curated wellness treatments," says Neha Bose, director of rooms, Four Seasons Hotel, Bengaluru. Wellness Resorts offer it all; from luxe amenities to eco-forward initiatives for travellers to begin rejuvenating in as soon as they arrive. Whether one wants to simply relax in a villa or along the private island's shores, delighting in incredible cuisine, or indulging in an edible spa menu or plant-based seasonal healthy diet in the midst of jungles; it is your pick today on how to unwind.

CITY READ

New leadership at the Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore Orchards

A new executive committee has taken charge of the Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore Orchards. With the themes 'Pink First' and 'Strong



Women, Stronger World', president **Vidya Sridhar** says that their new focus is the empowerment of women and the implementation of a series of projects through the year, along with aiding those affected by the pandemic. Author and media entrepreneur Sandhya Mendonca, the chief guest for the installation of the new team, called upon the club members to commit to strength, solidarity and social good through women's empowerment and establish gender equality.

The Digital India Sale

Reliance Digital is set to launch the Digital India Sale on July 26. With enhanced consumer experience through easy financing and EMI options, the sale offers deals on a range of electronic items. For purchase, customers can visit any Reliance Digital store or use their website. Customers can also use the Insta Delivery option which offers delivery in less than three hours and store pick-up options from the nearest stores.

Cyclathon to stand against assaults on healthcare professionals

Doctors at Manipal Hospitals initiated the 'Bridge the Gap' cyclathon covering 400 kilometres- the longest cyclathon, from Indian Medical Association, Bangalore to Indian Medical Association, Mangaluru, to stand against the violence directed at healthcare workers.

Terr-ori-sing, but beautiful: Ori series



ARE YOU GAME?

Anusha Ganapathi

@quaffle_waffle

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)



Platformers. The most "pedestrian" form of games. Basic, uncomplicated, linear. Super Mario World was a platformer. Everyone has played it. It moves from left to right, and we just run and jump. Platformers. Literally the pavement in the highway of real videogames. The difficult part is the hack and slash. Sometimes there are puzzles. Ori is a beautiful platformer. It has a rich story. Ori and the Blind Forest is the first game in the series. It is playable on the Xbox and the PC. The game starts with introducing the friendship of Ori and Naru. They were best

friends. Something sad happens, and Ori is forced to go on an adventure to revive the Forest, and bring back its former glory. The illusion of the easy, beautiful, comforting platformer ends with the prologue to the game.

Ori is a cute little bunny cat, a delicate creature of the forest. You think Ori can do no bad. In a few hours, Ori does triple jumps, pirouettes across platforms, smashes evil forest creatures. Exploration happens as Ori develops specific skills, which are neatly taped to the storyline

of the game. As the map unfurls its hidden nooks, we watch Ori grow into a resilient, and independent monster.

Over 1,400 moments of failure, until I finally finished the game. Skill progression does not make gameplay easier. The experience is constantly refreshed in the game, which makes sense, because the repetition happens as you keep failing sequences. As an interlude between the main missions, is a sequence so difficult, that I can now use my newfound dexterity to embroider a whole bedsheet.

And then I played Ori and Will of the Wisps, the second and latest game in the series. Confident in its winning format of torturing gamers, Will of the Wisps expands the universe with new features. In WotW, there is a new region, dialogue interactions, upgradeable skills, purchasable power-ups, and even side missions!

The Xbox Game Pass lures you with its free access to Ori. I wouldn't dissuade you from trying it, but I will warn you - it needs patience. I give the game a rating of 1400 deep breaths - that's what it took for me to finish it, anyway.



PLAY ON

Arjun Sukumaran

http://goo.gl/uNBWN3 (Arjun is a gamer, book lover and an all-round renaissance man)



IN AN ALIEN UNIVERSE

Even if you are not a fan of the Alien/ Aliens franchise, Legendary Encounters will make for a good game as you deal with threats

When a game is based on a popular franchise, it's up against it from the very start. Not only does it have to be a good game in its own right (like every other game on the market), but it also has to live up to the franchise it's a part of. How often have you heard games like this dismissed as cheap cash-ins? That's why Legendary Encounters: An Alien Deckbuilding Game is such a pleasant surprise (apart from that name).

As you might have guessed by now, Legendary Encounters is based on the Alien/ Aliens franchise. Specifically, the game includes scenarios based on Alien, Aliens, Alien 3 and Alien: Resurrection. Each scenario features a unique location, objectives and characters to recruit based on those found in the films. Working together, players will recruit characters and build their personal decks, all while contending with whatever obstacles lie between them and achieving the objectives necessary to win. (Note: there are also variants where players can have secret objectives that might require them to work against each other as well as a mode where one player controls the aliens, but I'll just be talking about the co-

op mode here because a) it's really good and b) it's tough enough as it is!

That's a functional description of what's going on here, but it really doesn't capture what makes Legendary Encounters so good - it genuinely feels like

you're playing through the events of the movies. Of course, things won't always turn out the same way but there are enough key moments that everyone playing will be drawn in. The atmosphere this game creates has to be experienced to be under-

stood. Yeah, you're killing multiple aliens in the course of the game (as in Aliens), but the slow, creeping horror that descends as you work through the Hive Deck is much more reminiscent of Ridley Scott's original 1979 masterpiece.

If you haven't seen any of the movies, the game will lose that added punch; however, it still remains a very good game. Though you'll miss the references as they come and go, you'll still have your hands full dealing with the threats coming your way. Make no mistake, this game is tough; but that's really where the enjoyment comes from. Nobody likes co-op games that are too easy and, like the Souls franchise over in the videogame world, Legendary Encounters understands that victories are

best savoured when they are fraught and hard-won.

A word on the Legendary family - this series began with Marvel Legendary, which was a simpler and more direct game when compared to Legendary Encounters: Alien. This game came next, and proved to be so successful that they've subsequently released Legendary Encounters based on Firefly, Big Trouble in Little China, Buffy and Predator (and yes, you can mix the Predator one with this!).

Each flavour of the game comes with its own unique spin on the formula (Marvel has villainous masterminds that you'll be going up against, Predator can be played in competitive, co-op or team modes, Firefly uses Serenity as a game mechanism, and so on), so you can really pick the theme that best works for you.

For my money, though, Legendary Encounters: Alien is the perfect blend of an immersive theme and thrill-a-minute gameplay. It's one of my favourite co-operative games, it's one of my favourite thematic games, and it's simply an excellent game all round.

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YOGARAJ BHAT TO HELM A PROJECT BANKROLLED BY BC PATIL



CE FEATURES

Yogaraj Bhat post-*Gaalipata 2* will be collaborating with actor and producer, and politician BC Patil for a project, and interestingly will have his friend and colleagues -- director Suri, music composer turned director, V Harikrishna and writer-actor Vikas associating with the project. BC Patil, who is currently busy as a politician is a former cop, who later established himself as an actor in Kannada films, who has also directed and produced films. Yogaraj Bhat made this announcement on his social media platform, which mentioned "With Agriculture Minister of State, BC Patil. Suri, Harikrishna, Vikas, Sudhir, and I will come to-

gether to have lined up a project. More details of the project will be revealed soon. (sic) mentioned the post, along with pictures of the team in a discussion with BC Patil. Yogaraj Bhat in his chat with *CE* confirmed his collaboration with BC Patil for a project. "The project is at the initial stage. I will be finalising on the script, post which we will be announcing the launch date," he says.

Bhatru currently shooting for *Aaddarinda* plans to resume *Gaalipata 2*

Meanwhile, the director is currently shooting for his much pending



Yogaraj Bhat

episode titled *Aaddarinda* that involves five directors coming together for a project starring *Comedy Khiladigalu* couple - Govinde Gowda and Divya. "It is a different experience, and I am enjoying it. Hope with 5 directors coming together for a film will set an example. I am glad to be associating with producer Chandan Gowda," he says.

As for his upcoming directorial *Gaalipata 2*, Bhatru plans to begin shooting soon and is working on the actor's date. The film is bankrolled by Ramesh Reddy stars Ganesh, Diganth, and Pawan Kumar along with an ensemble cast. We are left with 30 percent of

The project will have director Suri, music composer-turned-director, V Harikrishna, producer Sudhir, and writer-actor Vikas associating with the filmmaker in finalising the content

shooting, and mostly talkie portions," says Yogaraj Bhat. The director, who is simultaneously doing the editing job, is happy with the outcome of music scored by Arjun Janya. "The portions shot at the foreign locations are mind-blowing, and I can't wait to present it in front of the audience. The songs are brilliant and we are soon planning to release the audio," he says.



A FAN'S TRIBUTE TO HIS IDOL

ASHARADHAA

Challenging Star Darshan's love for animals is well known, and one recent example of it is his PSA about donating funds for maintaining the nine zoos of Karnataka during the pandemic. Taking a leaf out of this facet of the actor, filmmaker Guru Deshpande is set to pay tribute to the Darshan's love for creatures by coming with a film titled *Zoo - Care of D Boss*. The film will be backed by Guru Deshpande's own G-Cinemas banner.

The official announcement about the film, its title and motion poster were released on the occasion of the filmmaker's birthday. "The film's titled as *Zoo-Care of D Boss*, and it is self-

A story penned by director Guru Deshpande is inspired by real incidents from the life of Challenging Star Darshan and his love for animals

explanatory as to what the film is all about," says Guru Deshpande, who has penned the story, which is inspired by real-life incidents of Darshan. The film will be the fourth

venture made under Guru Deshpande's home banner, and he will be the creative head of the film.

Throwing more light on *Zoo - Care of D Boss*, Guru Deshpande says, "The film is the story of an eight-year-old who is a die-hard fan of D Boss (Darshan). His entire life revolves around his love and his bonding with the star. What happens when the little boy decides to achieve something the star appeals to his fans to do is the crux of the story. What he sets out to achieve is beyond his means and capacity but the boy won't give up. The film in the process also shows what star power can do and how Darshan inspires millions of his fans."

While Guru Deshpande is yet to announce the director, who will be helming the project, the producer and creative head has roped in Manikanth Kadri and Abilash for music and cinematography, respectively. "A strong team consisting of Hari Paraak, Puneeth Arya, Kiran, Vamshi Krishna, and Yethiraju is currently working on the screenplay," says Guru, who plans to commence the project from mid-August.

The film is the story of an eight-year-old who is a die-hard fan of D Boss (Darshan). His entire life revolves around his love and his bonding with the star

- Guru Deshpande, director

TRISHA IN TALKS FOR PUNEETH RAJKUMAR'S *DVITVA*

The Pawan Kumar directorial, bankrolled by Hombale Films, is a psychological thriller, and is likely to have the two actors teaming up once again after *Power*

CE FEATURES

Puneeth Rajkumar and Trisha teaming for Pawan Kumar's upcoming project, *Dvitva*. That's the latest buzz doing the rounds about this project bankrolled by Hombale Films. *Dvitva* being a psychological thriller, had *U-Turn* director looking for a heroine, who can play a mature character, and Trisha is said to have fit the bill. Sources in the know say that the production house, the director are in talks with the *Vinnaitaandi Varuvaya* actor, and that finalisation in the regard will be taken soon, and an official announcement is awaited. If so, this will be the second time Trisha will be collaborating with Puneeth Rajkumar. The duo have previously worked in the hit film, *Power* released in 2014.

Meanwhile, Pawan Kumar, who was busy with the release of his first Telugu web series, *Kudi Yedamaithe* starring Amala



Dvitva poster

Paul followed with the release of *Ikkat*, a comedy-drama presented under his production house, is now completely focused on *Dvitva*. The director who is delighted to collaborate with Puneeth Rajkumar and the production house for the first time is raring to commence with the project sometime in September and is currently off to an undisclosed destination, and is getting ready with the table work. Puneeth Rajkumar on his end is busy shooting for Chethan Kumar's *James*.

Trisha has a line up of films in his kitty including Mani Ratnam's epic, *Ponniyin Selvan*, *Garjana*, *Raangi*, *Ram*, and *Sathuranga Vettai*.



Trisha

Filming of Prabhas' next begins



Prabhas

Deepika Padukone

Amitabh Bachchan

CE FEATURES

Prabhas' next pan-Indian film has entered production on Saturday, the actor announced. The *Bahubali*-actor took to his social media to share that he clapped for Amitabh Bachchan, who is playing a crucial role, on the first day of the film's shoot. "On this day of the film's shoot, it is an honour for me to clap for the guru of Indian cinema! It now begins!" Prabhas wrote

while sharing a picture of the clapboard.

The film, which is tentatively titled Project K, features Deepika Padukone as the female lead. Directed by Nag Ashwin of *Mahanati*/Nadigaiyar Thilagam fame, the film is speculated to be a sci-fi actioner. It was earlier announced that the filmmaker will be teaming up with cinematographer Dani Sanchez-Lopez and music director Mickey J Meyer after working with the duo on *Mahanati*.

Further details related to the project are currently under wraps.

Meanwhile, Prabhas' upcoming films include the period romance, *Radhe Shyam*, alongside Pooja Hegde, the Prashanth Neel directorial *Salaar*, and Om Raut's *Adhi Purush*, an adaptation of *Ramayana*. Among these, *Radhe Shyam*, which is nearing completion, will be the first to hit the marquee, and the makers are yet to officially announce a revised release date.



Karan Johar

Karan Johar to host *Bigg Boss* OTT

CE FEATURES

Filmmaker Karan Johar is set to take up the hosting duties of the upcoming reality show, *Bigg Boss* OTT, which will run for six weeks before the start of the television version of the fifteenth season.

The OTT version of the series will premiere on Voot on August 8. "My mom and I are huge *Bigg Boss* fans and wouldn't miss it for a day. As a viewer, it keeps me hugely entertained with dollops of drama. For decades now, I have always enjoyed hosting shows and now with '*Bigg Boss* OTT'... it will surely be over-the-top," says Karan.

The filmmaker also says that his mother, Hiroo Johar's dream has come true.